

# **1916 & 1917 High Relief Proof Half-Dollar coins & the Hermon MacNeil Proof Set manufactured by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia**

By Seymour Wampum

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Revised © 2016 Photos S.I. Collection, Mint Letters, Mint Telegraphic  
Code Book, Matte Proofing process, Die life.

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# Introduction

To all those collectors of “Walking Liberty Half Dollars” whom believe there are no proof 1917 coins, I submit to you the following information. The following coins are legendary rarities. Because most dealers & collectors have never seen one, or do not own one, or know of anyone whom does possess a genuine example, does not indicate there are none in existence. Compare this thought to the oxygen you are now breathing: never seen any, I do not have any, neither do you, so there isn’t any; gravity... ect.. Many of these ultra-rarities are passed down through families, generation to generation, as was the “Hermon MacNeil Proof Set” of 1917, it was 59 years before it surfaced. Some are not properly identified.

All of the following is composed from a three decade 1990’s-2015 research of the U. S. Mint records available. Of the 12,292,000 pieces coined in 1917 at the P-Mint, I had to locate the records for 3 to 5 pieces each denomination, the task seemed difficult, but entirely possible, there are more challenging tasks. Copies of original documents are included, yellow is the only paper Phila. Archives allows for copies.

To begin, I need to give you the reader, some of the pertinent information concerning the 1916 & 1917 design modifications. I will present this information as if you know nothing of the developments of manufacture, issue and presentation of these or any other Trial, Proof, Presentation, or Master Coins. I do not intend to talk-down to you. The purpose of this study is to inform the neophyte and expert alike. Some information is corrected in 2016, some not. All important documents I found are presented below. I have not included the common information: weight, dia. ect..

The birth of the beautiful High Relief coins of the early 20th Century were a direct result of a change in manufacturing of dies and President Theodore Roosevelt's artistic attraction to the beauty of ancient Mediterranean coins. A duplicating machine developed in France, the "Janvier Reducing Machine", (see last scan) was employed to reduce the entire large one dimensional sculptured models to smaller sized dies. Philadelphia Mint received theirs in 1906 to replace the "Hill" machine which only provided a "basined" die which is a smooth, mechanically true curvature. The old style basined die was a nearly flat surface which received the central design by a hydraulic press, then letters & numbers were punched in separately by the Chief Engraver.

Proof coins are only produced on specially selected disks, on a hydraulic press--one of two--in P-Mint Medal Room. 'Engraver' is custodian of all dies. [Source: Records of the Newusm 1900-7 Box 200 folder Coinage 1908-22] By definition: is the coin a Proof, a Specimen, or a Master Coin? The earliest (c.a.1830) name the Mint used was "Master", shortly thereafter "Specimen" then "Proof". All three names are used within the Mint--in the Coiner's Department records--this writer has seen. "Proof Condition" designates a coin made expressly for collectors and other Mints, to preserve our coinage in first class condition for posterity. Proof coins are made from dies prepared expressly for the purpose, and--old style basined dies--are polished to a great degree of brightness. The planchets are also prepared expressly for receiving the proof impressions, being highly polished and otherwise prepared for sharp, even impressions."

To know when a coin was struck: Time Books: different volumes for Employees in the Adjusting Room & Coinage Dept.: when and



where they worked. Coiner's supply scratch book: Coiner's work figures on supplies requested, and telegrams.

Found in a letter dated March 3, 1939 the P-Mint Superintendent could find no legal ability to strike and sell proof coins prior to 1860. Many collectors know of many pre-1858 Proof coins beginning with the 1792 Half-Disme Thomas Jefferson presented to Martha Washington. "...we find no record of legislation authorizing the issue of proof coins." The first regulation was issued by Mint Director dated March 8, 1860. However, 1880 Regulations for the Transaction of business at the Mints and Assay Offices of the United States: "Proof-coins and Pattern-pieces may be struck and sold subject to these regulations, when authorized by the Director of the Mint." Similar wording 1888: "Proof coins shall be furnished for the current calendar year only, and of such as are struck during the year. No proof-coins shall be coined, nor dies executed, of such denominations of coins as are not coined for general circulation during the calendar year. Silver sets will not be separated."

Proofing is a process. The matte process is used to produce a protective layer on the surface of the coin to prevent corrosion from the environment. The process was developed by the Japanese in antiquity, to preserve bronze art by adding a colored patina, to protect bronze statues from outdoor weathering elements. The four coin metals we are concerned with: gold, silver, bronze and nickel (simplest) each have their own "rokusho" (ingredients) and different processes: chemicals, temp. & time. Concerning the 1916 and 1917 High-Relief half dollars both satin finish and matte finish are extant outside the National Collection: Smithsonian Institution.

There are two 1917 groups: High Relief and Low Relief. Comparing the details of coins struck from High Relief dies of 1916 and 1917: The proofs "Scream Proof," once you have seen one you

will never forget. There is no question when compared side-by-side which is a proof and which is not. Extreme detail and no luster. The Low Relief circulation strikes display 'soft' details compared to the circulating High Relief. The High Relief circulation strikes are 'soft' in comparison to the proofs.

The following information is necessary to define here so you can become familiar with the rules concerning proof coins by regulation of the Mint. See Scan x below. Law of June 4, 1910 Amended Regulations concerning Medals, Proof Coins, Experimental pieces, Hubs and Dies. In short:

Section 3. "Proof coins shall be furnished for the current calendar year only, and of only such coins as are struck during the year."

Section 4. "No coin of any kind shall be struck after of the year of its date..."

Section 6. "On the first working day of each year there shall be defaced and destroyed in the presence of the Superintendent and Assayer, all coinage hubs and dies, including mother dies, whether of experimental or adopted design, obverse or reverse..."

Section 10: "All....proof coins shall be delivered by the Coiner to the Superintendent....accurate account...cost paid quarterly and year end detailed statement.

Section 11: Experimental Pieces: struck only on written request and number of pieces by DM. If not adopted then defaced (by DM) and returned to Super., melted, receipt issued to DM. If adopted shall be returned by DM to Super. whom issues a receipt to Engraver for all experimental pieces.

Section 12. "Experimental pieces of all kinds...shall be struck by the Engraver..."

Section 13: Engraver must prepare for Super. each month the number of Hub's and Die's and number of "Experimental Pieces" struck. Scan x below.



# 1916

1916 [608,000] + 5 satin proof, ? matte.

1916 the Mint announced a contest for new coin designs, Adolph Alexander Weinman was invited to submit a design, he was awarded \$2,000.00 in 1916 for his Half-Dollar winning design; ditto Dime. His description of his artistic concept is as follows: Found in a hand written letter sent from his studio: 441 W. 21st St. NYC to the Director of the Mint (Office was in WDC). "In my design for the Half Dollar I have decided on a full length figure of Liberty, and have represented her enveloped in the folds of the Stars and Stripes, progressing in full stride toward the glorious dawn of a new day, carrying branches of laurel and of oak, symbolical of Civil and of Military Glory. Her right hand is outstretched in bestowal of the spirit of Liberty to the "Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

"The design for the reverse of the Half Dollar shows an eagle perched upon a high mountain crag, his wings unfolded, fearless in spirit and conscious of his power. Springing from a rift in the rock is a sapling of mountain pine, symbolical of America.

The design of the dime, owing to the smallness of the coin, has been held quite simple. The obverse shows a head of Liberty with winged cap. The head is firm and simple in form, the profile forceful.

The reverse shows a design of the bundle of staffs, with battle ax, known as "fasces", and symbolical of Unity, wherein lies the Nation's strength. Surrounding the fasces is a full foliaged branch of olive, symbolical of peace.

A.A. Weinman.

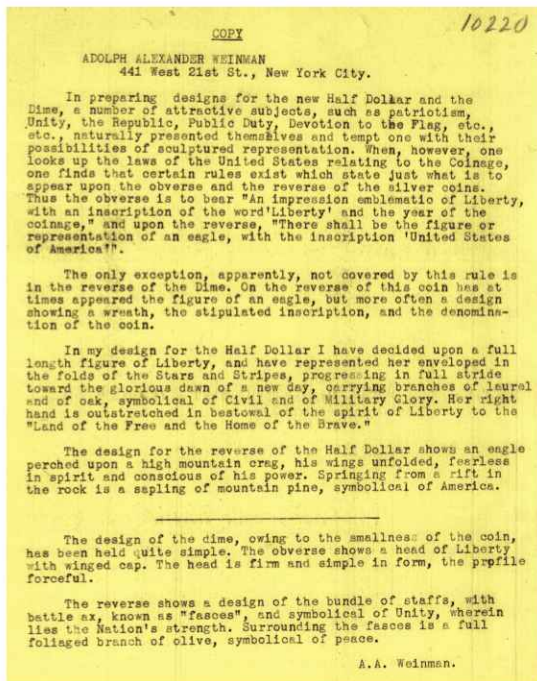
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Springing from a rift in the rock is a sapling of mountain pine, symbolical of America."

Weinman was confronted by intense resistance in reproducing his model to coinage dies by the Engraver Charles Barber. Barber's own Half Dollar design was being replaced which had been in production from 1892-1915. The first meeting in the Mint, just prior to March 29, 1916, all participants were assembled who were engaged to produce AW's model to be made into the master die, all were present except Barber, no call, no show. Failing health and an unpleasant disposition, and concerning all new designs were replacing his, Barber's contempt was evident daily until his death Sunday February 17th 1917. This writer has found over one dozen trivial design modifications demanded by the unhappy Engraver, some included below.

Letter from Director of the Mint (hereafter DM) to Superintendent (hereafter Super.) March 8, 1916 requesting artist to repair working

(COPY)

(Tel. 47-Flushing)  
HERMON A. MacNEIL.  
Northern Boulevard  
College Point  
New York.

May 11th, 1916.

The design of the Twenty-Five Cent piece is intended to typify in a measure the awakening interest of the Country in its own protection.

The Law specifies that on the obverse of the coin not only the word "Liberty", but a representation of Liberty shall be shown.

Liberty is shown as a full length figure, front view, with head turned toward the left, stepping forward to the gateway of the Country, on the wall is inscribed the words, "In God we Trust". Her left arm upraised bearing the shield in the attitude of protection, from which the covering is being drawn. The right hand bears the olive branch of peace. On the field above her head is inscribed the word, "Liberty", and on the step under her feet, "1916".

The reverse of this coin necessitates by law a representation of the American Eagle and is here shown in full flight with wings extended, sweeping across the coin. Inscription, "United States of America" and "E Pluribus Unus", and "Quarter Dollar" below. Connecting the lettering above on outer circle are olive branches with ribbon that is stirred by the breeze as the bird flies.

H. A. MacNeil

July 18, 1916

Mr. C. M. Joyce, Superintendent  
Mint & Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir

I am sending today to Mr. Charles E. Barber  
a new bronze cast of the reverse for the Dime.  
Please make the letters somewhat bolder and  
have simplified the olive branch to some  
extent, with the consent of Mr. Woolley.  
I am now having the obverse cast in bronze  
and will forward it to Mr. Barber within  
a few days, if the cast is successful. The  
obverse for the Half Dollar, which has been  
somewhat modified, will soon follow  
and I am now busy with the reverse for  
the Half Dollar.

I may say that I was greatly disappointed  
to find that the background on both the Dime  
and Half Dollar had been polished, a course of  
procedure which, please me to say, with some  
very design. With a background like this  
like a mirror it is impossible to even design.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER WEINMAN  
441 WEST 21ST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

All the designs and in my opinion makes  
the coin look cheap. Mr. Woolley agrees with  
me that a polished background should not  
be used in these coins and I would greatly  
appreciate your opinion in the matter.

Respectfully  
J. A. Weinman

models no later than May 1, 1916. April 25, 1916 first reverse submitted. End of May Barber made two reverses, one with burnished field, other modelled. 25c: See May 11, 1916 for description of design. See below S4, the letter from DM to Joyce June 24, 1916: "...The model of the obverse of the Half Dollar will have to be made over and Mr. Weinman informs me he is now at work on it." "...The reverse....as shown on the coins struck from the polished dies, are satisfactory. I can see no good end to be accomplished by having the models remade on slate bases." ..... "P.S. The two Half Dollars received from you will be lent to Mr. Weinman; the balance of the coins will be returned to you next week. Letter from DM to Super. June 28, 1916: pay AW \$2,000.00 for half dollar design. See below the hand written letter from AW to Super. July 18,

1916: "...The obverse for the Half Dollar, which has been somewhat modified, will soon follow and I am more busy with the reverse for the Half Dollar." [Paragraph] "I may say that I was greatly disappointed and find that the background on both the Dime and



Half Dollar had been polished, a course of procedure which, permit me to say, will ruin any design. With a background that shines like a mirror it is impossible to eventually see the design and in my opinion makes the coin look cheap. ....” Hand written letter from AW to Barber July 26, 1916: “....I have made a change on the placement in the word ‘Liberty’ on obverse of the Half Dollar and the reduction is ready, but must have the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The reverse is now being reduced and will be finished tomorrow. I shall send both as soon as approved and cast in bronze.” “.....I request that the Engraver at the Philadelphia Mint be instructed to use the strongest possible relief in both coins (*dime also*) and not to rub or burnish any part of the dies.” Handwritten letter from AW to Secretary McAdoo Aug. 12, 1916: Sent 3 photographs of changed reverse see also Aug. 7, 1916 typed S3 below (Scan 3: hereafter S<sub>3</sub>). Mentions an earlier obverse change. AW says the first dies were weak, in lower relief than original design. “The background of field had been rubbed on the dies so the struck coin shone like a mirror.” “....I request that the Engraver at the Philadelphia Mint be instructed to use the strongest possible relief in both coins and not to rub or burnish any part of the dies.”

Aug. 16, 1916 from Super. to Acting DM: Please send one of the hydraulic presses you are not using to NY Assay Office.

Letter from AW to Joyce (Super.) Aug. 19, 1916: ...obverse LIBERTY also IN GOD WE TRUST to be relocated...please send a lead impression from the die of cent for comparison to make any slight correction. August 21, 1916 letter from AW to Joyce: Enclosed is “...bronze cast of the final model for reverse...” revised upper group of feathers of left wing.

Telegram Aug. 28, 1916: High relief dies sent to D & S-Mints.

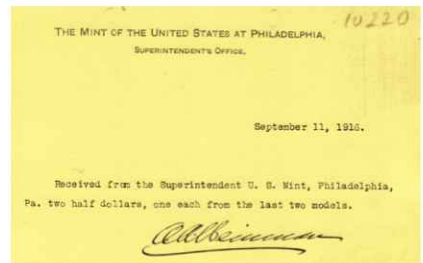
See S5 below the letter from Acting DM to Joyce August 29, 1916: "Referring to the experimental coins now in this Bureau, and to those on hand at the Mint, I have to request that, upon being advised of the final approval of each of the designs, all such pieces be destroyed. ¶ If you have lent to the sculptures' any of the coins, please request their return to your Mint for destruction as soon as there is no further doubt as to the satisfactory conditions of the respective dies."

Planchet size adjustment/redesign: Coins sticking in vending machines, pay telephones. Letter Aug. 12, 1916. Aug 30, ADM to P-Mint Super. concerning Brandt see S21 below. Letter Oct. 6, 1916 see S101 below. Letter from Coiner to Super P-Mint, Nov. 13, 1916 See S107. Letter from Am. Sales Machine Co to Joyce, Nov. 16, 1916 see S6 below. Letter from Brandt Cashier Co. to Joyce & Von Engelkan Dec. 26, 1916: 50c & 25c work correctly, 10c not so. See S7 below.

Letter hand written from AW to Joyce requesting coins by his design: 20 \$1/2, 50 10c "...general circulation...." "...one copy of each, the Half Dollar and Dime, from the special lot...." see S8 below Letter Sept. 6, 1916. Enclosed is check for \$15.00 please send 20 half dollars and fifty dimes. "As a special favor I would request one copy of each, the Half Dollar and Dime, from the special lot which I understood you say will be struck for higher officials of the Administration. ...." See S10 below: No coins received to date, paid for, notification by letter Nov. 1, 1916. No coins received to date, by notification of letter dated Dec. 22, 1916. Dec. 28, 1916: Finally received 20 half dollars and AW sent another \$5.00 for 10 more, which were received Jan. 2, 1917, he says: "...given as New Years gifts..." "...that the beads are not on the border of the new Half Dollars....".



Sept. 7, 1916 Telegram order from Von Engelken to Super: "Have Weinman come to Phila. to take up matter of fifty cent piece.... Director."; see S16 below: Letter Sept. 7, 1916 below. Letter from DM to AW (approved by Asst. Sec. Newton) Sept. 8, 1916: Come to Phila. Mint for conference with Super. and Engraver relative to the dies. Expenses paid by Mint. September 11, 1916 expenses to travel to P-Mint on Government Account: \$8.45. Reply from AW "...Will be there between 11:00 and 12 o'clock." Letter signed by AW on Mint Superintendent's letterhead: AW to Super. Sept. 11, 1916: "Received from the Superintendent U. S. Mint, Philadelphia, Pa. two half dollars, one each from the last two models. Signature AW [Trial Strikings]. Sept. 16, letter from DM to Joyce: When Weinman arrives please explain the design to be in restrictions of our "mechanical limitations". Have "Mr. Barber determine the width of the rim across the face with a view of obviating the fin edge condition, and that if possible you limit Mr. Weinman in his design to a specific depth..." As most "Walker" collectors know one of the 1916 "Experimental's" is known today in private hands. See "Free-Range Trial Striking" right & below. See S13 letter below: Sept. 19, 1916 S-Mint ...return 10c dies. A nearly identical letter is dated Sept. 7, followed by a telegram from von



Engelken Sept. 7. A letter from DM (Acting) to AW Sept. 23, 1916: "Cast of obverse is about to be delivered to P-Mint, please be present there while dies are made. Expenses paid." Sept. 25, 1916 Expenses to travel to P-Mint on Government Account: \$14.10.

Letter Oct. 6, 1916 die preparation 10c, see S103 below. Oct. 17th: Telegram from DM to Super.: "Sir, I am in receipt of your letter of Oct. 17th. Effective at once, you will please discontinue the manufacture of Proof coins." This letter testifies that there was a monetary loss to the production and sale of proof coins due to the bullion costs & labor costs versus the price sold for.

Letter Oct. 17, 1916 send lead impressions 25c, see S11 below. Letter Oct. 17, 1916 to DM from Super.: "The issue of the silver coins of the new designs will complete the series of changes on the coin designs. The ground of all these designs is uneven, which makes it impossible to produce proof coins which are distinctive from the regular coins made on the coinage presses from new dies, the only difference between proofs and the regular coins being the sharper edge and design." Letter from AW to Joyce Oct. 18, 1916: Please inform me as to the progress of the new dies.

Letter from Mint Director F.J.H. von Engelken to Super. Oct. 18, 1916: "I am in receipt of your letter of Oct. 17th. Effective at once, you will please discontinue the manufacture of proof coins."

See S14 below handwritten letter from AW to Joyce Oct. 21, 1916: "....I do hope it has been possible to arrange the obverse of the Half Dollar so that the figure of Liberty has not been reduced in size and height of relief. However knowing the keen interest you are taking in the success of these coins. I feel that the final result will be safe. I shall be pleased to receive the examples of the first coinage." "....wish to make requisition for the payment of the sum of \$2,000.00, due..." "....expenses Philadelphia on Sept. 11, Sept 25."



Letter Oct. 22, 1916 from DM to P-Mint 25c Die Trials two of four one-sided returned, see S102 below.

Letter Nov. 1, 1916: from Super. to Acting Director: "Hereafter when reporting coinages on Cashier's Daily Statement, please report the proof pieces separately from the regular coinage."

Letter hand written from AW to Joyce Nov. 1, 1916: "...removal of my monogram from reverse...." "...I have not received the number of new coins..." See below S10.

Handwritten letter from AW to Joyce Nov. 10, 1916: "....that my design for the Half Dollar lead has been finally O.K.'d I made, on October 21. Formal application for the payment of the full account of \$2,000.00 due upon such approval. ...have not yet received this payment...."

Letter Nov. 11, 1916 from DM to P-Mint: "...we decided to sharpen the design of the shield,..." see below S106, also see photo Strengthened shield details.

Letter: Nov. 11, 1916: to Super. from DM Set-up presses with new design, strike, retain all pieces in Coiners hand's attach Daily Statement. Your opinion as how many pieces will suffice an inventory that will "to the end we may accumulate a surplus to meet the extraordinary demand we may anticipate after the day of issuance."

Letter sent from DM to Super. Nov. 11, 1916: Please send 12 sets of dies to S-Mint. Follow this with another 12 in a week or ten days. Or all 24 now if you can. To D-Mint 6 sets.

Letter Nov. 11, 1916: Giving "....Mr. Hidelt....the position of "Melter".

Letter Nov. 11, 1916 from Super. to Joyce: Please send to me.... 12 half-dollars...." Letter from DM to Joyce Nov. 11, 1916: "...coins (10c) for the Secretary reached here in good season...Will you

please send me twelve....Half Dollars.” Letter from DM to Super. dated Nov. 11, 1916: requesting the number of experimental or specimen coins charged to DM.

Letter from AW to Joyce Nov. 13, 1916: Thanking for the expense vouchers for travel expenses Sept. 25 & 26. Letter from (Acting von Engelkin) DM to Super. Joyce Nov. 16, 1916: ship new half dollar dies to D-Mint & S-Mint. Nov. 21 invoice: Six sets D-Mint 12 sets (obv #7-18, rev #7-18) S-Mint Nov. 21 cost \$60.00 and \$120.00 respectively.

Letter from ANJ Mr. Kunz to Joyce Nov. 24, 1916: AW has informed me there have been small changes to his design, one being a beaded border but this is not final, American Numismatic Journal wishes to publish photos, will you also send any information as to the minting of these coins.

Letter to Joyce from DM Nov. 27, 1916: Mr. Malburn suggested a mechanical alteration to the presses so the high-relief half-dollars could be struck without being troubled with lack of uniformity on the thickness of the rim. Please send reasons in full....see Letter Nov. 27, 1916 S108, S110 below. Letter from Barber to Joyce Nov. 28, 1916: Barber said the coins do not strike with an even rim, but are thin where the devices--head and foot--come near the rim. The coin design was strictly artistic, not for mechanical advantage. With the present design the problem can not be overcome.

Letter from ANJ Kunz to Norris (Acting Super.) Nov. 28, 1916: Thanking Norris for the information that the only change was the beaded border change. You the reader know the facts to that answer.

Letter from Engraver Barber to Super. Joyce Nov. 29, 1916: concerning edge thickness problems, see S17 below. Letter from Barber to Joyce Nov. 29, 1916: Sent dies obv. #19-26, rev. #19-24 to S-Mint. Cost \$60.00. Invoice #81111. Letter from ANJ Kunz to



Joyce Dec. 2, 1916: Thanks for information as to new coin preparation of the dies, the metal and the minting.

Letter from DM to Super. Dec. 7, 1916: Please inform me of progress of design half dollar dies. I have a letter from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury asking for progress report. Letter from Engraver Barber to Joyce Dec. 9, 1916 see S18: "The want of uniformity on the thickness of the edge of the new half dollar is not the result of any defect on either our presses or methods of manufacturing coins, it is the result of conditions met with in the design. ....I may add that this uneven thickness occurs in the five cent and the new dime and from the same causes..."

Letter from Director to all 3 Superintendent's Dec. 16, 1916: Please use form 1028-A weekly for coinage 'dies on hand' 'received' and 'Used in Coinage'...'used in coinage' that are unfit for further use'...."

Letter from DM to P-Mint Super Dec. 21, 1916: requesting 10 each 25c, 50c. See S118 below.

Letter hand written from AW to Joyce Dec. 22/16: ? issue date, requesting coins paid for when Officials receive theirs, see S120 below.

Letter hand written from AW to Joyce Dec. 28, 1916: Rec'd 20 \$1/2's paid, enclosed \$5.00 for 10 more \$1/2's. See S125 below.

Letter from DM to P-Mint Super., Dec. 29, 1916: D-Mint "...clearness and uniformity of edge..." "...general lack of sharpness from you Mint,...." See S121 below.

## Half Dollar

Coin is in The National Numismatic Collection, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, hereafter: TNNC. Hand written Judd 1797, it is a 1797a. No luster.



Obverse: Entire obverse has die polish in all directions.



Reverse: Heavy die polish where AW will be at later date to CA.; (AT)ES....ME(RI). Double strike evident at 12:00. Large Eagle.

Coin is in TNNC. High relief.





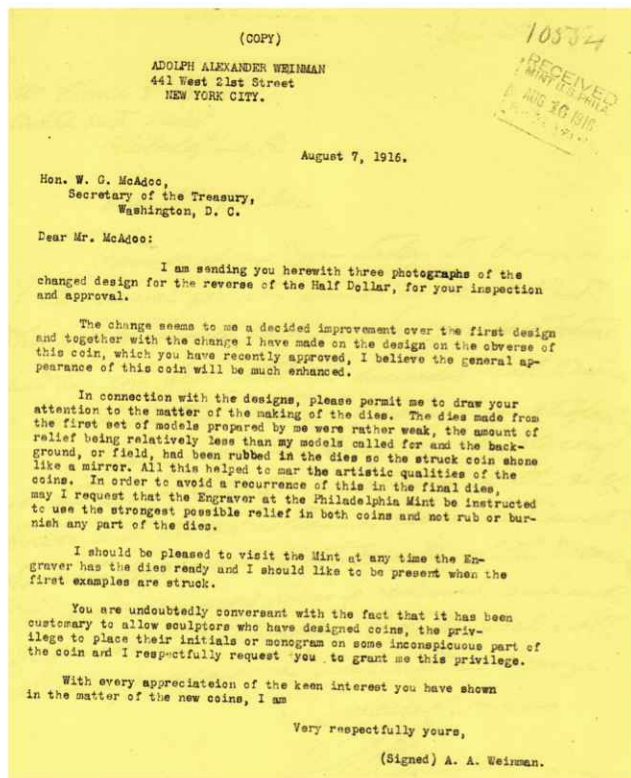


O b v e r s e :  
 Among many  
 polish marks  
 Slab 198 & this  
 have heavy  
 polish mark  
 from B(ER) to  
 leaf just above  
 left elbow, seen  
 in photos.

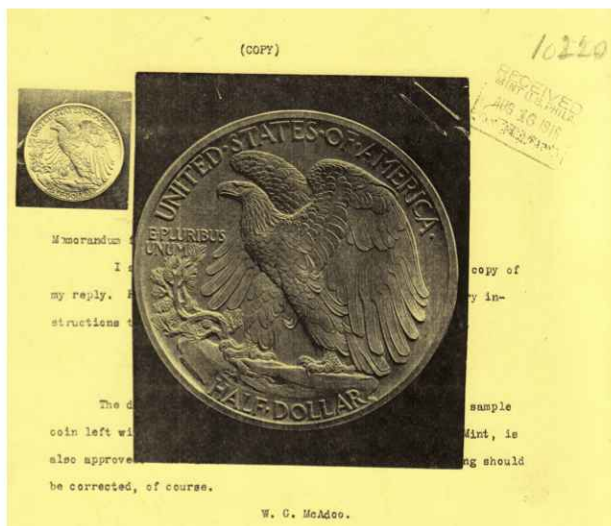


Reverse: Same  
 die as slab 198.

S3. Letter Aug. 7, 1916:  
3 photos.



Scan c. Reverse  
modification photo July  
21st, 1916. This is one of  
the sharpest coin photos  
this writer has ever seen,  
glossy.





Coin in TNNC. Looks AU, possible incomplete Satin Proofing.





Obverse: R in TRUST has two lower strokes. Die polish horizontal throat to first star. Dot between both stars in front of face just below eye-level. Dot below right hand at wrist and above lower star. Heavy horizontal die polish at 1916.



Reverse: No AW. Light die polish entire field towards 12:10 on a clock face. Small Eagle.



Coin in TNGC. Slab has handwritten Judd 1798 but it is a 1799. Proof, no trace of wear. No luster.



Obverse: Light rays, flag details soft, all details soft. Vertical die polish covers field in and around IN GOD WE TRUST.

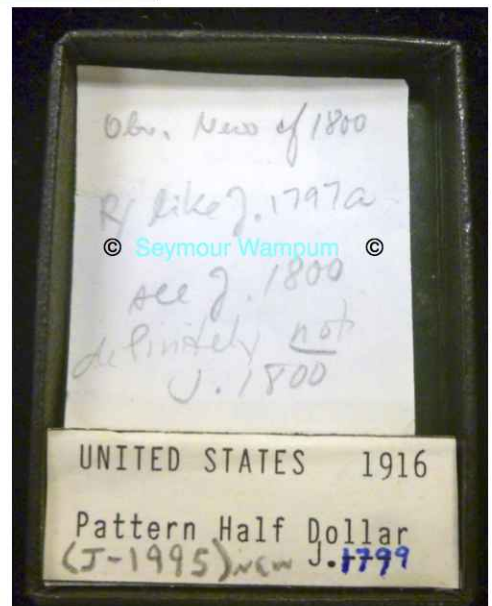
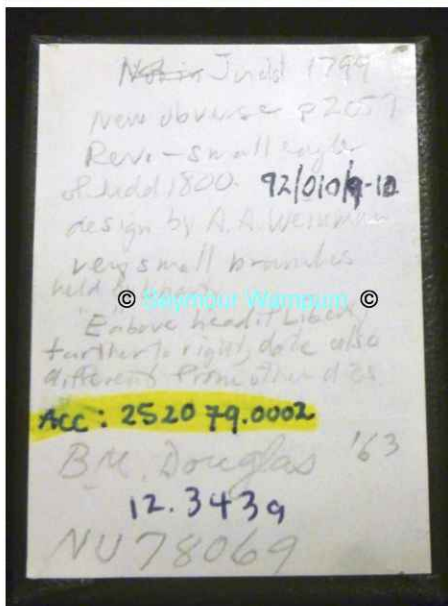


Reverse: Line under (A)MERIC(A), through E PLURIB. Die polish from Eagles wing near sapling towards (I)TED. Large Eagle.





This coin is in TNNC, it should be called a 'Free-Range Trial Striking'. Circulated to Fine condition. Circulation has removed all die markers.





Obverse: Similar to slab 197 but LIBERTY further from border. E directly above head. Mountain covering sun bigger. Mountain at base of foot bigger.



Reverse:.. Smallest Eagle. Smaller USA, Half Dollar. Area at left is identical to slab 196.

INSTITUTE of NUMISMATIC AUTHENTICATORS

2 Madison Ave.

Staten Island, NY 10312

August 17, 1972

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This certifies that I have examined the accompanying coin and that I unhesitatingly declare it a matte proof 1916 (WL) half dollar.

Sharpness of strike exceeds that on regular business strikes, much of both head and <sup>profile</sup> ~~hand~~ showing, full eagle feathers also. Borders are broad and far less rounded than on ordinary halves of the period. Surfaces are not identical to other proofs of 1916 (cent and nickel) but are nearest to those on proof gold of 1915 and <sup>identical to silver coins</sup> ~~pattern halves of 1916~~ in the ~~shimmer~~.  
I have seen a total of four matte proofs of this issue, <sup>(including this one)</sup> and have heard of one other.

Respectfully submitted

Walter Breen  
for the Institute

B & W copy.  
Rough draft.



## 1916 Twenty Five Cents.



Coin is in TNNC.



Obverse: M placed right of star. Obv. strengthened shield details, see letters below (example S102)



Reverse: No die scratch, feathers to (I)BUS see below.



Coin in TNNC. Dies look perfect.





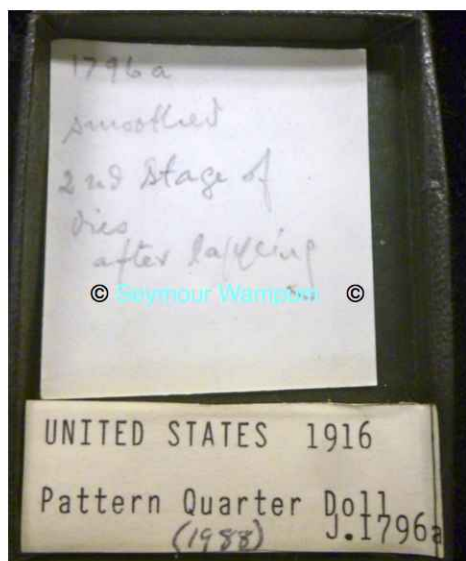
Obverse: Strong raised dot next to star above right of 6 where M will be placed, see above. Weakest shield details. Weak details, walls near rims on both r. & l. details effaced. See text below.



Rev.: 13 stars replace wreath.



Coin is in TNNC. Luster is present.





Obverse: Small raised dot next to star above & right of 6 where M will be placed, see above. Weak shield.



Reverse: Heavy die scratch (BU)S to feather tip.



# 1916 TEN CENTS



Coin in TNNC.



Obverse: Date descends to right. No AW in field. Small head. Die rust in field near hair at nape of neck.





Coin in TNNC.

Ivy/Heritage has a 1916 Proof 10c

NB 49:35 Ivy/Heritage has a 1916 Proof 10c



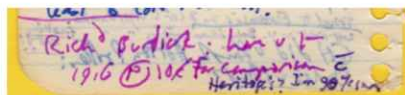


Obverse: Level date. AW in field. Die polish where die rust was on above o b v e r s e . Different bust point than last. Uneven area on side of neck looks to be glue, it is raised above coins surface.





Coin in TNNC.



NB 49:36 ...Proof 10c for comparison...



Obverse: No AW.  
Pointed bust. Flat  
date. Extreme  
detail.







OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

June 24, 1916.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

The dime is all right. Please see that working dies for the three mints are made as rapidly as possible, in order that the coinage of the new dimes may be begun quickly. The demand for these coins is exceedingly great.

The model of the obverse on the half dollar will have to be made over and Mr. Weinman informs me he is now at work on it. The same is true of the quarter dollar. The reverse of both the quarter dollar and the half dollar, as shown on the coins struck from the polished dies, are satisfactory. I can see no good end to be accomplished by having the models remade on slate bases.

Everyone to whom the coins have been shown here thinks they are beautiful.

I beg to enjoin you not to pay out any of the new dimes until you have received special instructions from this office.

Very truly yours,

*J. M. Moody*  
Director of the Mint.

P. S. The two half dollars received from you will be lent to Mr. Weinman; the balance of the coins will be returned to you next week.

S4. Letter June 24, 1916. 10c okay, \$1/2 to be made over.



OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1916.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Referring to the experimental coins now in this Bureau, and to those on hand at the Mint, I have to request that, upon being advised of the final approval of each of the designs, all such pieces be destroyed.

If you have lent to the sculptors any of the coins, please request their return to your Mint for destruction as soon as there is no further doubt as to the satisfactory conditions of the respective dies.

Respectfully,

*F. M. Caldwell*  
Acting Director of the Mint.

S5. Letter Aug. 29, 1916.

102  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

September 7, 1916.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

I wish to confirm our telephone conversation of to-day relative to the new coinage, supplementing what I have just telegraphed you as follows:-

"Have Mr. Weinman come to Philadelphia and take up with him the matter of the fifty-cent piece in accordance with my letter which will reach you in the morning."

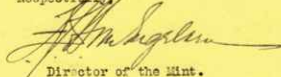
You will please go into this matter very fully with Mr. Weinman. Explain to him that it will be absolutely essential that the design of the coin shall come within the restrictions to which we are subject by reason of our mechanical limitations. It would be my suggestion that you have Mr. Barber determine the width of the rim across the face with a view of obviating the fin edge condition, and that if possible you limit Mr. Weinman in his design to a specific depth of <sup>concavity</sup> ~~convexity~~ on the face of the coin. Mr. Barber should be able to fix this limit at a point that will do away with the unevenness of thickness in the edge of the coin. If this is not perfectly clear to you kindly ring me up by telephone after you have discussed the matter with Mr. Weinman. I am very anxious to know how much more time will be necessary now to have Mr. Weinman modify his design in conformity with our requirements, as Mr. MacDoo is pressing me for this informa-

S16. 2 pages Sept 7, 1916.

tion. Please let me have a complete report of your discussion with Mr. Weinman.

I have before me one of the 25 cent pieces struck from the reduced design. I notice that the relief of this coin is much lower than that of any of the others. If it is at all possible I wish you would see that the designs as submitted by Mr. MacNeil be used. Should any modification be deemed advisable after taking the matter up with him, I will advise you what to do. In reporting to me on this twenty-five cent piece be sure to let me have your recommendations.

Respectfully,

  
Director of the Mint.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

P. S. It may be as well to have Mr. Weinman there next Monday as I will be with you on Monday afternoon. I will leave this matter to your judgment, however, as time is a matter of prime importance, and we want to avoid any unnecessary delay.

S8. Sept 6, 1916: Special lot request.

ADOLPH ALEXANDER WEINMAN  
441 WEST 21ST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

10220

September 6, 1916

R. W. Joyce, Esq.  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint  
Philadelphia, Pa.

RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA.  
SEP 15 1916  
AM 10 DEC 22 1916

Dear Mr. Joyce


You may remember my speaking to you about securing some examples of the new half dollar and dime and I herewith enclose a Postal Money Order for \$15.00, for which please send me twenty half dollars and fifty dimes. I would request that these be of the first lot struck for general circulation and would appreciate greatly to have them before they are in general circulation.

As a special favor I would request one copy of each, the half dollar and dime, from the special lot which I understood you may well be struck for higher officials of the Administration.

I have the design progressing satisfactorily from both the artistic and practical standpoint.

With kind regards to you, I am

Sincerely yours  
Adolph Alexander Weinman

  
OF SUPERINTENDENT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
MINT OF THE UNITED STATES  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

September 19, 1916.

Superintendent U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.


Sir:

Pursuant to directions received from the Bureau of the Mint, I return to you this day new design dime dies as follows:

Obverse 106 to 110 inc--5  
Reverse 91 to 95 inc--5

Bill of lading 12904 enclosed.

Respectfully,

  
Acting Superintendent.

RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA.  
SEP 25 1916

S13. Sept. 19, 1916, return 10c dies from S-Mint.



*Proof Coin*

# AMENDED REGULATIONS CONCERNING MEDALS, PROOF COINS, EXPERIMENTAL PIECES, HUBS AND DIES.

ARTICLE 15. — Striking and sale of medals and proof coins at the Mint in Philadelphia.  
Sec. 1. Dies of a national character may be executed by the Engraver of the Mint at Philadelphia, and national and other medals may be struck by the Director of the Mint, such regulations as the Superintendent, with the approval of the Director of the Mint, may prescribe.

Sec. 2. Private medal dies shall not be prepared at the Mint, but when the regular business of the Mint will permit, medals may be struck from furnished dies at a charge sufficient to cover the cost of the operation.

Sec. 3. Proof coins shall be furnished for the current calendar year only, and of only such coins as are struck during the year.

Sec. 4. No coin of any kind shall be struck after the year of its date or of any denomination not authorized by law or in any other metal or alloy than that in which the coin is authorized to be issued, except such pieces in copper or other soft metal as may be necessary to prove the dies. All such impressions as the Engraver may find necessary to take while preparing the dies shall be destroyed when the dies are finished, and a statement to that effect shall be filed with the Superintendent at the end of each calendar year. No coin or piece shall be struck from a coinage die or dies of the United States in which the obverse or reverse is other than that specifically authorized for that particular coin.

Sec. 5. The prices of medals and proof coins shall be fixed by the Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia with the approval of the Director of the Mint. The price of the regular proof set of gold shall be \$38.50; the proof set of all silver and minor coins, \$1.50; minor coin proof sets, 8 cents each; single gold pieces in proof will be sold at 25 cents each above their intrinsic value. Silver proof sets will not be separated.

Sec. 6. On the first working day of each year there shall be defaced and destroyed in the presence of the Superintendent and Assayer, all coinage hubs and dies, including mother dies, whether of experimental or adopted design, obverse or reverse, dated or undated, except such as may be used as working dies during the current year and one mother die of each reverse and one mother hub of each obverse of each current design, and the Superintendent shall transmit to the Director a detailed list of the dies so destroyed.

Sec. 7. All dies except the regular coinage dies in actual use, and all hubs of the regular coinage dies shall be in the custody of the Engraver, and on the first working day of the year shall be turned over to the Superintendent for destruction, as provided in section 6.

Sec. 8. The Coiner shall, on a written record of the Superintendent, prepare all medals required and shall keep an accurate record of those manufactured, with a description of the metal employed therein and the number of each kind struck, and in the case of gold and silver medals shall furnish the Superintendent each month with duplicate accounts, charging the amount of bullion employed and the amount with duplicate accounts, charging the amount of bullion employed and the amount lost in the manufacture of the same. The Engraver must be considered responsible to the Coiner in regard to all of those activities having to do with the striking of medals and proof coins over which, according to present arrangements, he has practical supervision, but which according to the law belongs to the jurisdiction of the Coiner.

45890-10

Sec. 9. The Melter and Refiner shall deliver to the Superintendent, and the Superintendent to the Coiner, fine gold and silver to be employed in the manufacture of medals, the Coiner to be charged with the number of ounces delivered. In the settlement of this account the Coiner shall from time to time, as may be convenient, redeliver to the Superintendent all the fine or other bullion remaining in the form of clippings, strips or ingots, and any deficiency shall be made good by the Coiner.

Sec. 10. All medals and proof coins shall be delivered by the Coiner to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall keep an accurate account of all the medals and proof coins sold by him and also of those delivered to him by the Coiner. He shall pay for the latter out of the medal fund and shall render quarterly to the Bureau of the Mint a statement of the sale of medals and proof coins and pay into the Treasury of the United States quarterly, or at such other times as may be required by the Director of the Mint, the profit accruing from such sales, reserving, however, a fund sufficient to meet the incidental expenses attending the manufacture and sale of medals. A detailed statement of the specific medals and proof coins struck and sold each year shall be forwarded at the close thereof to the Bureau of the Mint.

Sec. 11. Experimental pieces of proposed designs or of new coins for the official use of the Director of the Mint under section 3510, Revised Statutes, shall only be struck upon his written requisition for a specific number of pieces, and shall be struck only in such metal or alloy and of such weight and fineness as prescribed by law for coins of the same denomination. Such experimental pieces shall be receipted for by the Director of the Mint, and if not adopted for regular coinage during the same year, shall be defaced by him (except such pieces as he may deem it wise to reserve for the Cabinet in Philadelphia) and returned to the Superintendent, who shall cause them to be melted in his presence and that of the Assayer, and a written statement shall be sent to the Director of the Mint to serve as a voucher in the archives of that Bureau. Such pieces, if adopted for coinage, shall be returned by the Director of the Mint and receipted for by the Superintendent. The Superintendent of the Mint shall give receipt to the Engraver for all experimental pieces.

Sec. 12. Experimental pieces of all kinds (except the soft metal impressions provided for in section 4) shall be struck by the Engraver from planchets furnished by the Coiner, only upon a requisition signed by the Superintendent for a specific number of pieces.

Sec. 13. The Engraver shall prepare each month for the Superintendent a statement as to the number of hubs and dies prepared, and the number of experimental pieces struck. On the first working day of each year, and at other times if he so desires, the Superintendent of the Mint shall inspect the Engraver's department and personally examine all dies, hubs, and experimental pieces in the custody of the Engraver, in order to insure compliance with the regulations.

Sec. 14. The annual assay medals are presented as awards for service to the Government in connection with the Annual Assay Commission. One medal shall be awarded to each of those who actually serve upon the Commission, including the Secretary of the Commission and the Director of the Mint, and any additional copies which may have been struck shall be defaced and destroyed immediately after the meeting of the Commission. All assay medals of a given year shall be of identical material, and no such medals of earlier dates shall be struck.

A. PLATT ANDREW,

Director of the Mint.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

CHARLES D. NORTON,

Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

June 4, 1910.

*Proof Coin*

PROOF COINAGE designates a coin made expressly for collectors and other Mints, to preserve our coinage in first class condition for posterity. Proof coins are made from dies prepared expressly for the purpose, and are polished to a great degree of brightness. The planchets are also prepared expressly for receiving the proof impressions, being highly polished and otherwise prepared for sharp, even impressions.

*(Proof coins made at Philad. Mint only)*

Proof (sets) were last made in 1915. Proof coins were made in 1916 but only in five cent and one cent denominations. This was the last year in which any proof coins were struck until it was again decided to resume coinage of these pieces in 1936.

*proof pieces struck in gold - 1861 -  
Gibbs & Co. in proof 1838*

Scan  
X.

Subject: Issue of Proof Coins.

The Director of the Mint,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The issue of the silver coins of the new designs will complete the series of changes in the coin designs. The ground of all these designs is uneven, which makes it impossible to produce proof coins which are distinctive from the regular coins made on the coinage presses. From now on, the only difference between proofs and the regular coins being the sharpen edge and design.

Formerly the full set of proofs was made in January or February and orders could be filled when required, but since the number of manufacturers and issuers of the proofs has been changed so that some of the denominations may not be issued until late in the year (we are only allowed to make each denomination after the regular coins for circulation have been issued) great dissatisfaction has been shown by persons desiring these proofs and a seemingly unnecessary amount of correspondence entailed on this office, returning orders and answering complaints.

In order to distinguish gold proofs from the regular issue, it has been necessary to give them a sandblast finish, which changes the appearance of the coins to such an extent that it is almost impossible to put them in circulation. This is something I am not sure we have a right to do.

The extra charge for the silver and minor proof coins, 5¢, does not cover the cost of manufacture.

I would, therefore, suggest for your consideration the advisability of ceasing the manufacture of proof coins.

Respectfully,

/s/ A. M. JOYCE  
Superintendent



## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1916.

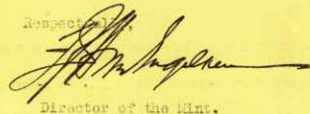
Subject: Dies.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

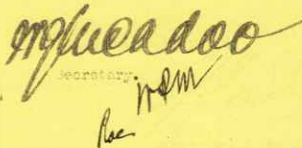
This will be authority for you to proceed with the preparation of dies of the dime after designs prepared by Mr. Adolph A. Weinman, and submitted this day to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully,



Director of the Mint.

Approved:

  
Secretary.  
102. *mem*  
*Rec*

S103. Letter Oct. 6, 1916.  
Preparation 10c dies.

OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

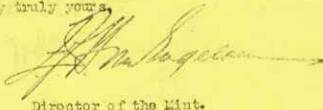
October 17, 1916.

RECEIVED  
MINT  
OCT 18 1916SUBJECT: New silver coinage.Hon. A. L. Joyce, Superintendent,  
United States Mint,  
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

In sending me the lead impressions of the twenty-five cent piece, made in accordance with our discussion yesterday, please return to me also the lead impression of the obverse side of the twenty-five cent piece that I left with you yesterday, in order that I may have this for comparison with the altered design.

Very truly yours,

  
Director of the Mint.

S11. 25c Lead  
impressions, Oct. 17,  
1916.

October 21, 1916.

Mr. A. M. Joyce, Superintendent  
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Joyce

Your letter of yesterday's date has come to hand and I note what you say regarding the new Silver and Half Dollar. I do hope it has been possible to arrange the obverse of the Half Dollar so that the figure of Liberty has not been unduly reduced in size and height of relief. However, knowing the keen interest you are taking in the success of these coins, I feel that the final result will be safe. I shall be pleased to receive the example of the first coinage.

As my share in the work seems to have been accomplished, I now wish to make requisition for the payment of the sum of \$2000.00, due upon the completion of my part of this work. I also enclose account of travelling expenses to Philadelphia, on Sept. 11, & Sept. 25.

With kindest regards to you, I am  
Yours very sincerely,  
A. M. Joyce



OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
EST. 1792

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

October 22, 1916.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

I am returning to you herewith two of the four sample quarters you sent me, one being blank on one side with the reverse design on the other, the other being your No. 4 as submitted in your letter of October 20th.

With one slight alteration, the design as it appears on coin No. 4 is acceptable. The slight alteration referred to is the elimination of the two leaves in the angle of the letter "L" in the word "Liberty". You will notice that I have scratched these two leaves off the coin I am returning to you. With this slight change you may go ahead and make up the dies for the finished coin. I have kept here No. 2 and No. 3 which you can charge to me.

Very truly yours,

Director of the Mint.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U.S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

S102. Oct. 22, 1916 Die Trials  
"...sample quarters..."

S14. Oct. 21, 1916 hand  
written.



S10. Nov. 1, 1916.

Wm. A. M. Joyce, Superintendent,  
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Joyce

My attention has been drawn to an article  
in yesterday's paper stating that the Treasury  
Department was contemplating the removal of  
my message on the reverse of the new dime.

As you undoubtedly are in a position to  
know whether such action is under consideration  
by the Department, I would thank you for  
information in the matter.

Through some oversight, no doubt, I have  
not received the number of new coins for which  
I had some weeks ago sent you a money order.  
I regret this particularly as I had procured some  
of these coins to my friends.

Very truly yours,  
LPH Alexander Weinman



OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
REPLYING QUOTE INITIAL

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

November 11, 1916.

SUBJECT: New Design Quarter Dollar.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

I have just had word from the Secretary that he  
would like to have the figure of "Liberty" on the  
obverse side of the Quarter Dollar brought out more  
clearly. I told him that I thought we could not do  
this without consuming a great deal of time and going  
over all of our past work again. He, therefore, agreed  
to let the Quarter go as it is. I told him, however,  
that we decided to sharpen the design of the shield,  
and I hope you can do this before sending out the  
dies.

Respectfully,

*LPH Alexander Weinman*  
Director of the Mint.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

S106. Nov. 11, 1916. Strengthen  
Shield details.

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF  
THE MINT

Records of the Bureau of the  
Mint  
Correspondence

LETTERS SENT, 1873-1917

Vol. 422 of 600

NC-152, Entry 235

November 11, 1916.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

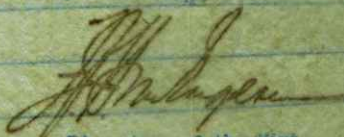
The two packages of coins for the  
Secretary reached here in good season  
this morning and have been delivered to  
him. Thank you for attending to the mat-  
ter.

Will you please send to me twelve  
each of the Quarter Dollars and the Half  
Dollars.

Yours,  
Thank you for attending to the mat-  
ter.

Will you please send to me twelve  
each of the Quarter Dollars and the Half  
Dollars.

Very sincerely,



Director of the Mint.

Hon. H. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent,  
U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

complete list  
Joyce, awaiting your attention.

ALTERED DESIGN OF THE QUARTER DOLLAR: The  
Secretary of the Treasury has authorized Mr. MacNeil, the  
designer of the new quarter dollar, to submit a modi-  
fied design for the Secretary's approval. The Phila-  
delphia Mint will reduce Mr. MacNeil's models to coin  
size, and will send them to you for submission to the  
Secretary. I would suggest that you ascertain the  
views of the Secret Service on this proposed change,  
and I leave this matter in your hands without recommen-  
dation.

COPIES PURCHASES TO BE MADE BY THE BUREAU:  
The following items provide that in future

Letter Nov. 27, 1916.



OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
DEPT. OF THE TREASURY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

10220

WASHINGTON

November 27, 1916.

RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA  
NOV 29 1916

SUBJECT: New silver coinage.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

You will recall while in New York my discussing with you the suggestion advanced by Mr. Malburn that some mechanical alteration in the presses would have enabled us to coin the original high-relief half dollar without being troubled with lack of uniformity in thickness of the rim. You stated to me at the time that the mechanical difficulties which made it impossible to do this could not be overcome.

Please write me a letter giving your reasons for this statement in full, in order that I may transmit it to Mr. Malburn for his information.

Respectfully,

*J. M. Hughes*  
Director of the Mint.

S110.

November 27, 1916.

SUBJECT: New silver coinage.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

You will recall while in New York my discussing with you the suggestion advanced by Mr. Malburn that some mechanical alteration in the presses would have enabled us to coin the original high-relief half dollar without being troubled with lack of uniformity in thickness of the rim. You stated to me at the time that the mechanical difficulties which made it impossible to do this could not be overcome.

Please write me a letter giving your reasons for this statement in full, in order that I may transmit it to Mr. Malburn for his information.

Respectfully,

*J. M. Hughes*  
Director of the Mint.

S108. Nov. 27, 1916 DM to  
Joyce: Malburn press  
modification.



*American Sales Machine Company*  
*Automatic Vending Machines*  
*For Tablets, Stamps and Merchandise*  
*Worcester, Mass., U.S.A.*

November 16, 1916.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
 Sup't. of Mint,  
 Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Joyce:

Our Washington representative, Mr. Fishback, has written to me regarding the use of our coin detector in sorting going at the Mint, and has pointed out certain defects which may exist in coins as they come from the minting machines.

We cannot answer offhand, as you will readily understand, but if you will take the trouble to submit to us some of the imperfect coins, we can very quickly determine whether or not our coin detector could serve to do the sorting you desire to have done.

The writer presumes that these defects are not constant, but that they would be of one character at one time and an entirely different character at another time when the circumstances have varied. Generally speaking, any variation from the contour of the perfect coin will be noted by the detector and the coin rejected.

This being a new problem, however, the writer would have to study it in the light of actual imperfections before giving an opinion.

Awaiting such further information as you can give us

Hon. A. M. Joyce, Esq.

and assuring you of our desire to cooperate with you in the matter,  
 I remain,

Sincerely yours,

WJH:R

*Robert Clark*

**S107. Planchet size adjustment.**  
**Nov. 13, 1916.**

**S6. Planchet change. Am. Sales,**  
**Nov. 16, 1916.**



OFFICE OF  
 SUPERINTENDENT OF COINING DEPARTMENT

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT**  
 MINT OF THE UNITED STATES  
 PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 13, 1916.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
 Superintendent,  
 Sir:

Replying to the Director's letter of the 10th instant, enclosing ten times coined at the San Francisco Mint, I have examined the same, and by way of improvement I would suggest that the planchets be cut to measure 704/1000, and the piece milled like the one enclosed. This will allow more blow without showing a fin. The piece will then measure after coinage 52/1000, which will meet all requirements and at the same time show a perfect and uniform border.

We place the obverse die on the bottom, thereby holding the piece more central, and aiding in the prevention of a fin. It will be necessary to make the neck of the reverse die longer. I enclose a finished piece coined as above stated.

Respectfully,

*Robert Clark*

Superintendent of Coining Department.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1916.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I am enclosing herewith check of the Brandt Cashier Company, 727 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, covering the cost of ten sets of each of the coins of new designs. Will you please cash the check, use enough of the proceeds to pay for ten dimes struck subsequent to the first ten you are to send to Mr. Von Engelken, and forward them to the above Company. Please retain the balance of the proceeds of the check until the quarter and half dollars are ready, and send ten of each to the Brandt Company.

I will appreciate it if you will expedite the shipment of the ten dimes to the Company, advising this office when the shipment has been made.

The Brandt Cashier Company has been advised that you have been authorized to transmit the new coins, and that you are holding the balance of the proceeds of the check for the other denominations.

Respectfully,

*F. H. Hallin*  
Acting Director of the Mint.

Brandt Cashier Company

Builders of Automatic Machines for Paying Money

~~727 S. Dearborn Street~~  
CHICAGO

1018 So. Wabash Ave.

RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA.  
DEC 28 1916

December 26th, 1916.

Mint of the United States,  
Philadelphia, Penna.  
Mr. A. M. Joyce, Superintendent.

Dear Sir:

We have your kind letter December 23rd, and are today writing Mr. F. J. H. Von Engelken, Director of the Mint, Washington, D.C., informing him that the new halves and quarters pay correctly through the Brandt Automatic Cashier, and are satisfactory for our system of coin storage trays. Furthermore, the same are confidential to us until you place the new coins in circulation.

We recently had a Chicago banker telephone us that the new dimes would not pay through his machine, and we called there and found some of the dimes varied. We previously reported as to this, and if you are interested, perhaps we can procure some of the dimes and send them to you. They may be from the early dies, and are perhaps correct today.

With appreciation, and extending compliments of the season, we are,

Very truly yours,

BRANDT CASHIER COMPANY

*W. H. Macdonald*  
President.

5M

S7. Planchet size, Dec. 26, 1916.

S21. Brandt Aug 30, 1916.



OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
FOURTH FLOOR, BUILDING

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1916.

URGENT: Coin to firms for trial.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Immediately upon dies for dimes of the new design becoming available to your use will you please send to the American Sales Machine Company, Worcester, Massachusetts, the Great Seal & Company 1015 So. Wabash Street, Chicago, Illinois, and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, 100 Broadway, New York, ten each of the coin to replace those returned by them to your Mint.

Respectfully,

*W. H. C. Barber*  
Director of the Mint.

S101. Oct. 6, 1916.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA,  
ENGRAVER'S DEPARTMENT.

November 28, 1916.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent.

Sir:-

Regarding the variation in the thickness of the edge of the Half Dollar, new design, I beg to say, it is unavoidable with the present design. Where the design extends through the centre of the piece from border to border with portions of the extremes of the design in high relief, the metal in the planchet is sure to flow under pressure away from the edge into the interstices of the dies, leaving the edge of the coin thinner in such parts as the design has swallowed up the metal at the edge. The present designs were made with the artistic character in view only, the mechanical production, which is strictly automatic being left largely to take care of itself, as any endeavor to urge the artists to conform to mechanical restrictions was invariably met with the objection, that it would interfere with their artistic conceptions of what the design should be.

Attention was called to this variable thickness of the edge and accepted as not of sufficient moment to give consideration, as to reduce the design enough to come well within the circle, not to affect the edge, would ruin the design, in fact it was the Artists desire to increase the design until the

Hon. A. M. Joyce, #2.

entire surface of the coin was filled, which would have made the objectionable feature of the coin, now complained of, still more apparent. As far as would be accepted by the artist the design was reduced to avoid this effect of an unequal thickness of edge and the coin was approved. I cannot see how this unequal thickness of edge can be overcome with the present design.

Respectfully,

*W. H. C. Barber*

B.

Engraver.

S17. Letter Nov. 29, 1916.  
Barber to Joyce.



MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA.  
ENGRAVER'S DEPARTMENT.

December 9th, 1916.

Hon. A. M. Joyce,  
Superintendent.

Sir:-

The want of uniformity in the thickness of the edge of the new half dollar is not the result of any defect in either our presses or methods of manufacturing coins, it is the result of conditions met with in the design. First the design is of unusual boldness and is brought so near the periphery of the coin that it is certain to draw the metal from the edge into the body of the design, notably the head of the figure and the ground upon which the figure stands, so long as these conditions remain the result will be as now found; I may add that the uneven thickness occurs in the five cent and the new dime and from the same cause, the only remedy would be a change of design with lower relief and brought so well within the circle of the coin that it did not affect the edge or thickness of the coin.

In answer to the questions: "Are not the French coins similar to our new designs, and are they able to keep uniformities?"

My answer to the first part of this question will answer the second. There is not a French coin having the same conditions as found in these United States coins,

A.M.J.  
#2.

namely, five cent, ten cents and half dollar and to perhaps a less extent will be found in the new quarter dollar, therefore the want of uniformity has not to be contended with in the French Mint.

Respectfully,

E.

*Charles E. Barber*  
Engraver.

S18. Dec. 9, 1916. Barber to Joyce.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

December 21, 1916.

SUBJECT: New Coins.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Will you please forward to this Office ten each of the half dollars and quarter dollars of new designs.

Respectfully,

*J. M. Hughes*  
Director of the Mint.

10220  
RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA  
DEC 23 1916  
INSIDE DEC 21 1916

S118. Dec. 21, 1916.  
Request 10 new \$1/2,  
25c.

10220

December 22/16

Mr. A. M. Joyce, Superintendent  
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Joyce

Permit me to inquire when the Mint will issue  
the new half dollar and to request the favor,  
that the accumulation of new coins for which I have  
quite some time ago sent you a money order, be  
sent me at the time when the official notice  
thereof, which I understand is somewhat in  
advance of issuance to the public.

With best wishes and the Season's greetings,

I am

Sincerely yours

Alexander Weinman

S120. Dec. 22/16.

10220

December 28, 1916

Mr. A. M. Joyce, Superintendent  
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir

I have received your letter of December 22,  
and the twenty new half dollars and thank  
you for your promptness in the matter. I  
now enclose money order for \$5.00 for which  
please send me ten new half dollars.

Respectfully yours

Alexander Weinman

S125. Dec. 28, 1916.  
Rec'd 20 \$1/2. \$5.00  
for 10 more.

DEC 29 1916 Ans'd



## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1916.

SUBJECT: Coinage.Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:


I am enclosing herewith two half dollars of new designs,-- one made at your Mint and the other at the Denver Mint.

Your attention is invited to the clearness and evenness of the edge on the Denver coin, the general sharpness of details, and particularly in the hands of the figure, and the breast and leg of the eagle.

Your attention is also invited to the general lack of sharpness in the coin from your Mint, and the excessive metal on the edge of the coin.

Please call the attention of the Superintendent of the coining department to this letter, have him inspect the coins together, and instruct him to make every effort to bring to perfection the coins manufactured at the Philadelphia Mint.

Respectfully,

  
Director of the Mint.RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA  
JAN -2 1917

S121. Letter from DM to P-Mint Super. Dec. 29, 1916.



**HALF DOLLAR.** Obv. Similar to the above but figure of Liberty is smaller; LIBERTY around upper margin; IN GOD WE TRUST is placed lower and more to the left. Rev. Same as above.

**1798. Silver—R.E. R.8.**

**1799. Obv. of 1798. Rev. Apparently the same die as 1797a. Silver. R.E. R.8.**

**1800.** Similar to 1799, but very large date, beaded borders, letters in LIBERTY very small. Rev. Smaller eagle, small compact letters far from border. Silver. R.E. R.8.

(It is reported that there are other die varieties.)

(Photographs of the patterns of 1909-1916 courtesy the Smithsonian Institution from specimens in the Mint collection.)

219

1800. Type of regular issue but very small compact date; rev. smaller eagle.  
Silver R.E. R.8. SA = 1917 N.M.

Walter Breen's  
1965, 1959 Judd  
3rd Ed.



Mr. Joyce

8 1/2 Dollars  
 5 1/4 "  
 101 Dimes

Director

1 1/2 Dollars  
 6 Dimes  
 1 1/4 Dollar

Owe for

12 Half Dollars	6.00	
12 1/4 "	3.00	
	(49.00)	
		\$14.00
5 1/2 Dollars	2.50	
10 1/4 "	2.50	
	500	

One Sunset Beach - S.M.

1916 Minor Proofs (600 5 cent & 1,050 1 cent) were sold to collectors and are rather common.

1916 P 1/2. Full head & hand. Kagin.

1916 P 1/2

1916 Proof \$1/2 full head & hand. Kagin

# 1917

## Annual Report of the Director of the Mint 1917 S305.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

Table 1: Summary of the production of gold and silver coins during the year 1917. The table shows the number of coins produced and their estimated value in dollars and cents.

Item	Number	Value
Gold coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Silver coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Copper coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Platinum coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Other coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00

Table 2: Summary of the production of gold and silver coins during the year 1917. The table shows the number of coins produced and their estimated value in dollars and cents.

Item	Number	Value
Gold coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Silver coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Copper coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Platinum coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Other coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

Table 3: Summary of the production of gold and silver coins during the year 1917. The table shows the number of coins produced and their estimated value in dollars and cents.

Item	Number	Value
Gold coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Silver coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Copper coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Platinum coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Other coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00

Table 4: Summary of the production of gold and silver coins during the year 1917. The table shows the number of coins produced and their estimated value in dollars and cents.

Item	Number	Value
Gold coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Silver coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Copper coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Platinum coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00
Other coins	1,000,000	\$1,000,000.00

+++++ARDM 1917

T. Morgan Assistant Engraver is commissioned Engraver to succeed Barber on April 10 1917. Barber had died on January 18.

**Engraving Department**  
Unused coinage Dies destroyed 327.  
Master Hubs and Dies for coinage 117.

P.41 The honorable R. W. Woolley retired from the position of Director Of The Mint July 15 1916 succeeded by F. J. H. vonEngelken on September 20 1916. Mr. vonEngelken resigned February 20, 1917, the present incumbent assumed the duties of DM March 19, 1917 (Ray T. Baker). Secretary Of The Treasury Wm. T. McAdoo.

+++++

## Half Dollar

1917 [12,292,000] + 5 Half Dollar (2 satin proof; 1 known matte proof) possibly 2 others still exist, a.c.t.o. W. Breen. Five Proof sets 1c-50c a.c.t.o. Dr. Sol Taylor.



1) Die pair 1 struck by Barber: Satin finish “Roman” heavily polished planchet. Obverse die heavily polished: sun-rays near sun 5, 6, 7, bases gone, 8 completely gone, 9, 10, 11, near sun almost gone tips near drapery gone. Crescent shaped lump on flag above elbow extending over arm (seen above), this connects to star. Wire



rim runs from 3:00 to 12:00. Die polish between (G)OD through (T)RU, base of U weak. No luster beneath yellow finish.



2) Reverse: Polish above E PLURIBUS UNUM, from Eagles beak to base of pine tree. Pine sapling detail extraordinary, details on bark and pinecones sharp. No luster.

Box 352  
Berkeley, CA 94701  
August 17, 1991

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This certifies that I have examined the accompanying coin and that I unhesitatingly declare it genuine and as described below.

It is a 1917 satin finish Proof half dollar. Finish is most like that on the first Peace dollar proofs of 1921, somewhat similar to 1909-10 "Roman" finish gold. Both dies were polished, especially obverse. Striking quality is far better than that on well struck unc. business strikes, on all relief details - head, hand, drapery, leaves, letters, sapling, feathers (even in areas normally weak), "squared" rims. This is the first I have seen in many years and possibly the 5th in all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Breen

Scan: Satin Proof 1917 Walter Breen Certificate Of Authenticity. Written Chicago Pre-ANA, this writer was present, what-a-week!. This coin was superior to all other coins he saw at this convention, he said this repeatedly.



3) Die pair 2 struck by Morgan: Matte finish obverse perfect dies. Two die polish marks before right foot. Extreme detail, more than Satin Proof above. No luster.





4) Reverse die polish follows rim from UNITED, E PLURIBUS UNUM, through sapling, base of mountain HALF DOLLAR, AW. Extreme detail. No luster.



Coin in TNNC. Business strike.



Obverse: Blast white luster. Soft round rim at top. Rim uneven: 12:00 vs. 4:00.



Reverse: Rim to field is soft, blast luster.





Coin in TNNC. Labeled Proof, redacted. This is a one-sided Proof, see next two photos below. See also Matte Proofing Process below.



Obverse: Lacking luster, Proofed (one-sided Proof). Detail not sharp as proofs above. Rims rounded slightly. Perfect die.



Reverse: Blast luster, very sharp details. Perfect die.

Letter from Denver Mint Superintendent to P-Mint Super Jan. 2, 1917: Sent 33 new half dollars which were from the first delivery of coins: Dec. 22nd.

Letter Jan. 2, 1917 from AW to Joyce thanking him for the 10 \$1/2, AW then gave away as New Years gifts. See S302.

Letter from Acting DM to Super. Jan. 4, 1917: "...please favor the coinage of half dollars until the demand is met. ..." S303. Jan 4, 1917 Assay Order, S304.

Annual Report of the Director of the Mint (ARDM) 1917, S305 above: page 23: Proof dies manufactured 46. This is the author's opinion: This is a large number of proof dies manufactured, at a cost average \$60.00 each pair, time and effort, and cost (80 cents) for coins that: "...was never made, never struck, do not exist...." a.c.t.o. many of yesterday's and today's numismatic "experts". Anyone can acquire a ARDM and see the proof. Back to the facts: 85 Master dies and Hubs.

Letter from H. MacNeil to Super. Joyce Jan. 6, 1917: The new quarters are not out yet, included is a check for 20 pieces. Please send them from the first "edition". A letter dated Jan. 10, 1917 from Super. telling all Mints not to release 25c until specific orders from this office. Letter Jan. 10, 1917: Letter AT&T to Joyce coin dimensions, problems continue. S306.

See S400 below Subject Index Letters Received Bureau of the Mint letter was rec'd 312 278 January 19, 1917 to Super. from DM ordering the destruction of the "Experimental Dies" and requesting the "Record of Dies". These are the satin proofs struck by Barber. The matte proof coins were struck by Morgan in March.

Letter from DM to Super. Joyce Jan. 22, 1917: Ordering Engraving Dept. to fully cooperate with H. MacNeil the design change of obverse, do what ever he says. Letter from DM to Super.



Joyce Jan. 30, 1917: MacNeil is working on new reverse for 25c. Letter from AW to Joyce Jan. 30, 1917 10c "...Heraldry slearps are pleased... , see S307. Letter from H. MacNeil to Super. Joyce Feb. 2, 1917: Now nearly done with cast of bronze of new reverse, 3 stars from top to bottom. How is obverse design change? Make LIBERTY a trifle smaller and remove IN GOD WE TRUST from ribbon.

Letter from HM to Super. Joyce Feb. 2, 1917: Another model cast of the obverse. Did Engraver finish the revised reverse die? See S308. Letter from H. MacNeil to Super. Joyce Feb. 9, 1917: Obverse bronze should be finished next week. The third reverse is in Engravers possession. Will you have him send a lead proof of it. Letter Feb. 16: HM to Joyce: new obv. under separate cover, no M, see S317 below.

Letter Feb. 17, 1917 from DM to Sec. of Treasury: Death of Engraver Chas. E. Barber leaves a vacancy. I recommend that Mr. Geo. T. Morgan, Assistant Engraver, be used as Mr. Barber's successor.

Feb. 26, 1917 Letter from AT&T to Joyce 10c thickness problems continue, see S301 below.

Letter from H. MacNeil to Super. Joyce Feb. 27, 1917: I can be in Phila. Mint to see trial of last model at noon March 1, 1917. Also by telegram, copy on hand.10220. MacNeil was presented with a set of all 5 denominations in proof, 5 duplicate 25c pieces in proof.

Letter April 13, 1917 from DM to Super.: "...transfer the mint mark from the obverse side of the half dollar of new design to the reverse side of the coin, for the reason that the mint mark as first placed had the appearance of a defect in the die, and was entirely too prominent."

Two “Specimen” coins in the possession of Super from DM Letter dated May 2, 1917, see S320 below.

Letter June 16, 1917: from DM to Super.: “You are hereby authorized and directed to place in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint at Philadelphia, the following experimental coins from dies for the subsidiary silver coins, Three Half-Dollars, Four Quarter-Dollars and Four Dimes. The balance of the experimental pieces on hand are to be destroyed, Respectively (sig) Director of the Mint. See S412 below. This order is not to be confused with the telegram order of Aug. 29, 1916 to destroy the “Experimental Coins on hand” of 1916, nor the Jan. 19, 1917 (*satın proofs Barber*) order. Letter from DM to Super. July 10, 1917: Authorizing the preparation of new quarter dollar dies. Today approved by Sec Treasury. The change was authorized on July, 9; see Letter July 10, 1917 S401 below.

Letter from HM to Joyce Aug. 13 '17 expects to receive one “1st edition” orders more with a \$5.00 bill. See Scan proof below. These are type II coins.

Geo. T. Morgan modified the die again in 1918: check area around throat for incised details. This master die went unmodified until the slight changes of the late 1930's and early 1940's.

All of these problems and delays with the modifications of the Half Dollar--AW's 1916 10 cent was far worse--experienced by AW pale in comparison to the delays that Herman MacNeil experienced with his 25 cent design. You could multiply the Half Dollar correspondences noted in this article by a factor of 15 and come-up short, it was well over a year (July 9, 1917) and at least 50 modifications before the 25 cent design was authorized.

Both AW and Hermon MacNeil were treated with such contempt and remorse by Engraver Barber that a few “Comp's” were awarded. AW received his requested (Sept. 16, 1916) “...special

lot...” of both denominations and are known in private hands today. Also MacNeil was given a presentation proof set which is partially intact today and property of the author, see the illustrations of the half dollars. The group of five extra 25 cent proofs, were given to MacNeil’s artistic friends living in France residing in University Bauxes of Arts, Paris; source Dr. Sol Taylor.

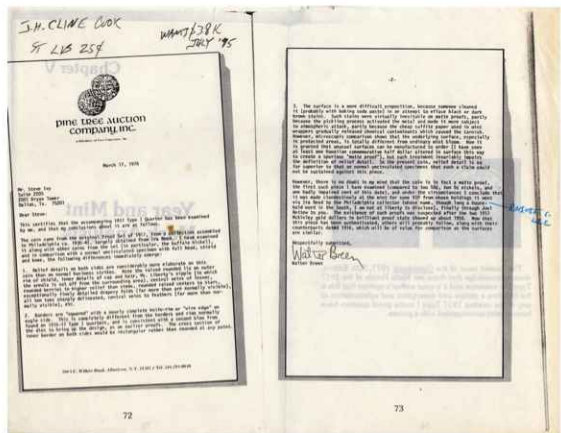
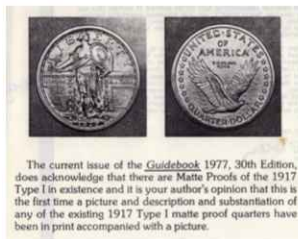
Herman MacNeil proof set: The Satin finish half (ill. 1 & 2) was part of the Hermon MacNeil set that was procured through Ira Reed in the 1930’s to a collector (Robert E. Lee) who’s collection stopped in 1942, then to dealer Joel Rettew Sr. in early 1976, whom sold the set intact in the following few months. Rettew paid W. Breen to fly via Air California from S. F. area to L. A.’s Orange County Airport on a Saturday to authenticate this proof set.



**25 cent**



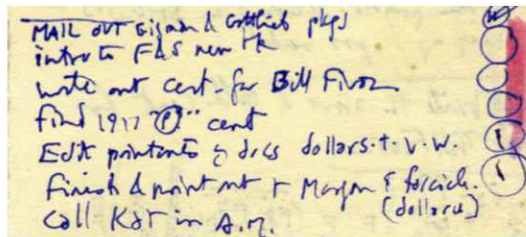
The above coin is in TNNC. it is a Type I Unc. full luster. 1917-P. Strike quality is average.



## One Cent

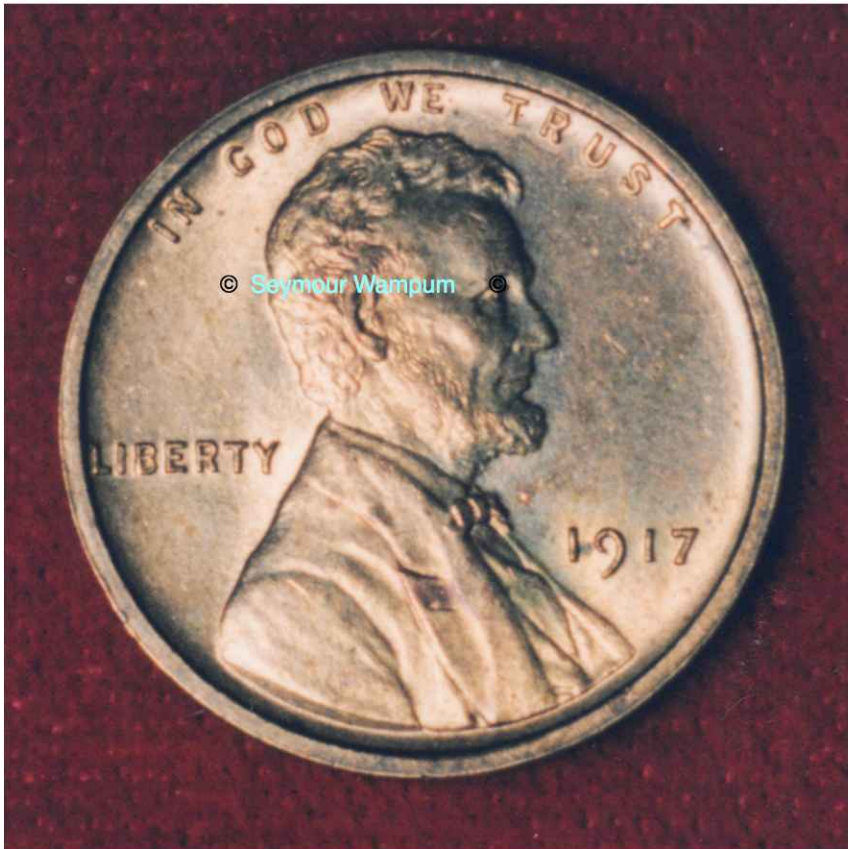


Front of an envelope with Walter Breen's address printed on it.  
THIS Sat. Joel Rettew Bring: 10c 5c 25c 50c \$1 Proof (circled P)  
 1917 1c, 5c. !? .....



Notebook 108:55: find 1917 "proof" cent.

5 & 6) The 1917 Proof Lincoln Cent one of 3 known, this coin has



a W. Breen May 1976 FCI COA, the July 24th 1988 COA does not now accompany the coin. See Publick II (Pinetree) 1976: \_\_. [Donald P. Lynch/San Jose Coin Shop, Rarities Group/Martin Paul, W. Breen. NB 89:71] Auction 90:1012 ANACS certificate (11/2/77)....2 small nicks... 1) Temple. 2) Shoulder... Die pair 1: This coin has a mirror finish rim edge (3rd side), a true diagnostic of bronze matte proofs, also appears slightly thicker due to full strike.





Rare Gold Management  
Walter Breen U.S. Type Coin Program  
U.S. Silver Dollar Society  
Pine Tree Auction Galleries  
Commissioners & U. S. Roll Club  
U.S. Commemorative Silver Half Dollar Society

**FIRST FCI**  
**COINVESTORS, INC.**

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

May 10th 1976

To Whom It May Concern:

This certifies that I have examined the accompanying coin & that I unhesitatingly declare it to be a genuine Matte Proof 1917 Lincoln 1 cent.

Surfaces are identical to other 1916 Matte Proof Lincoln's I have examined. Thickness of rim & sharpness of central details is superior to business strikes of that year. Clandestinely made. (ex. Ira Reed set) & believed to be unique. Duplicates of the 1917 50 cent, 25 cent & 5 cent Matte Proof coins are known to exist but none for 1 cent.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Walter Breen*  
Walter Breen

F C I BUILDING - 200 - U WILLETS ROAD - ALBANY, NEW YORK 12007 TEL. 518/284-0040

No luster. Knife rim both sides. Imperfect G in GOD: horizontal stroke shows lumps. R(UST) has lumps. IGWT shows second striking, G, S strike doubling. Lamination above 1st T. Photos 5 & 6 by J. T. Stanton.

Another coin: May, 1992 Mike Aron Rare Coin auction lot 57, Van Nuys: Matte Proof 62, red & brown. Source Dr. Sol Taylor. Another very reliable source reported another in a private collection, 1992. See A Guide Book of U. S. Coins "Red Book" 1978 to date.



The above is a business strike or a common circulation strike, note the round rim, soft details. Coin in TNNC. 1917-S.

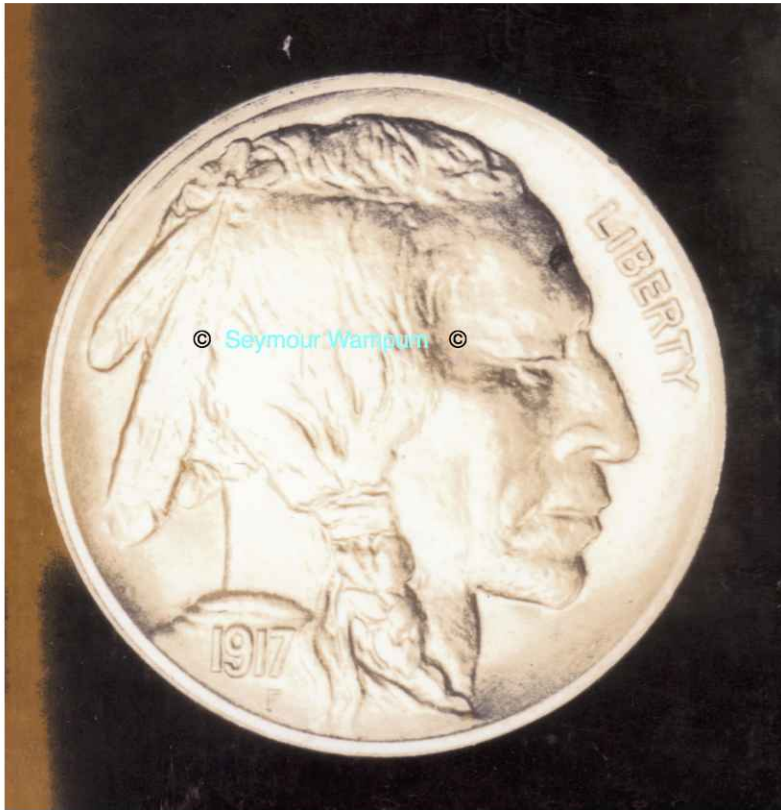




The above two photos are of the coin that is in TNNC. 1917-P, an Unc. circulation strike. Note the lack of detail and the roundness of the rims that fade into the fields.



## Five Cent



7) Die pair 1: The 1917 proof Buffalo from the H.M. set (ill.) has a die break from the top of L(IB) to rim, 6 are known in proof. Knife rim. Publick Sale July 1976 Part II: \$1,100.00, Auction (86?) 83:1039 \$6,600.00. No luster.



8) Note crack from top of L(IB) to rim.

NB 39:41

Lee Atkinson is sending for FCI south. sent on 12/7  
 (P) 5¢. OK. p. completed 12/16.







10) Die pair 2?: Obverse: Perfect die, evidence of second strike seen L(IB). No luster. (?First strike before crack?)



11) Reverse: Perfect die. Knife rim just like die pair 1. Scratch at flank is on holder, not the coin.

See A Guide Book of U. S. Coins "Red Book" 1978 to date.



Coin in TNNC. Uncirculated business strike.





Obverse: Luster, soft rim top. Soft feathers, hair above braid no detail.



Reverse: Luster. Rim weak right side, strong detail.

H. M. proof set: 10c not illustrated here: Dime(s) unknown/lost to date. Type I 1917 Quarter Dollar from this set is cleaned, encapsulated, 5 or so others known; W. Breen typed a COA on 'Pinetree Auction Company Inc' letterhead dated March 16, 1976. Half Dollar 3 satin proofs known a.c.t.o. Breen's NoteBooks. Five or so now known one is the Satin illustrated above, Matte illustrated above. First matte W. Breen COA 8/17/1972, second unknown date. Most of the above are encapsulated by several third-party grading services. In addition there are at least six 1916 and five 1917 (Miles: 315) McKinley Memorial gold dollars in proof. Also 1918 Illinois Centennial half dollar in Satin Proof: 2 known, several more in Matte. Mint records have die pairs for both types of commemoratives in Proof.

Among other excuses, Engraver Barber repeatedly insisted the coins did not strike properly due to the high and low areas of the design, causing the obverse and reverse rims, near head and date to be uneven. His excuse was nullified in the following letter from DM to Super P-Mint Dec 29, 1916: "Enclosed 2 half's from D-Mint noting clearness and uniformity, general sharpness of details, particularly the hands, breast and leg. The P-Mint lacks all these. Notify the Super. of Coining Dept., inspect these coins and make every effort to manufacture perfect coins at your Mint." In the end much of the problem striking--uneven rim, wire fin--was due to the planchet size. The dime was reduced (704/1000 disk struck to 52/1000) and all were struck okay. Fin was eliminated. Half planchet may have been also changed.

### **Synopsis:**

All new designs are struck in 'Specimen' or 'Proof', by law. Many exist today and are in collections, some collectors specialize in those issues. The DM & Super. written orders to manufacture many specimens exist, as do the orders to destroy the dies, also the extra coins. Also the placement in the P-Mint collection of 3/4/4 pieces. Note also in the Sept. 1916 letter from AW to Super. requesting the "special lot". There are several other examples of letters and telegrams from the Mint to AW and H MacNeil sending and receiving coins of unauthorized design. The most popular guide book among coin collectors for the last 60 years has listed the one known Matte Proof "Specimen" 1917 Lincoln cent--Ken Bressett included this beginning in 1978--but unknown to all, the cent was the property of the late Walter Breen. Walter had an appetite for the ultra-rare, but never spoke of the accumulation he had due to two robberies of his Fulton St. Berkeley CA home "Grey Haven", a.k.a. 'the fish-bowl', a.k.a. Green-walls. He kept his collection in his basement in a bowling-ball-bag; ?!WB in a bowling alley, NO! His U.S. large-cent and half-cent collections were of legend, 1922 High relief Proof Peace Dollar, many other great rarities, 1877 Proof Set. Little information is ever seen on the other 1917 denominations except a leading price guide publishes a bid price 5c \$6.000., 1c \$---. A leading third party grading service has a population report that has listed several genuine proof five cent's certified. There are proof twenty five cent's known encapsulated, notably the Hermon MacNeil piece which belongs to the set. There are a couple of High-Relief Proof Half-Dollars (above) known encapsulated also.

Next proof set? The 1919 Mint Report (ARDM) has proof dies listed at 2 pairs: 50 cent Illinois, 25 cent, 10 cent, 5 cent, 1 cent. The



Lincoln Illinois Half Dollars are known in proof. The search for information continues.... Future projects: U.S. gold coins, currency.

All of the above information came directly from Mint Archives over several decades, nothing is fiction, there is more detail if you care to look for yourself. The 1917 date is less than 1/2 of 1% of the records I have seen. On a normal 8-hour day I review 9 cubic feet of records in Record Group 104. The majority of this 1916-17 article was found in one short 6-hour day in Philadelphia Archives, the balance was located in what was in National Archives W.D.C., but now relocated in Archives II College Park MD, 'textile research room 200' 15-hours, S. I. photos 3 hours. Walter Breen also supplied this writer with information which is included here. There are no "on-line records" included, paper & micro-film only: physical proof. Sources are named so if I am in error the facts can be corrected.

The satin proof of 1917 made in January with highly polished dies (illustrated above: 1, 2) and a polished planchet was nearly one of the last coins struck by Barber. Considering Barber's contempt for the design, one could easily assume he burnished the dies for the new designs in spite. He certainly did all he could to prevent the P-Mint from producing "perfect coins" for circulation. Understandably a person is grumpy the few months before dying. The matte \$1/2 was struck (illustrated above: 3, 4) by Morgan, early March, 1917, soon after Barber had died. A far superior coin in detail.

Herman MacNeil died October 2nd 1947.

John Ray Sinnock born Raton NM 1888. Studied at Pennsylvania Museum Art School and won A. W. Mifflin Scholarship for advanced study and travel in Europe. Prior to Mint an instructor at the Philadelphia Museum Art School for eight years. Appointed Assistant Engraver & Medalist at P-Mint in 1917 & Chief Engraver in 1925 to his death in 1947.

## Certificates of Authenticity & letters NB's.

B&W copy. First example  
of a Matte Proof Half  
1917 seen.

Mail out signed Certificate plus  
intro to FLS new to  
write out cert. for Bill Freen  
find 1917 20 cent  
Edit printouts to show dollars & v.w.  
Finish & print out to Meyer & forward.  
Call Kat in A.M. (dollars)

NB108:55

INSTITUTE of NUMISMATIC AUTHENTICATORS  
2 Madison Ave.  
Station Island NY 1091  
August 17, 1972

To whom it may CONCERN:

This certifies that I have examined the accompanying coin and that I unhesitatingly declare it a genuine 1917 matte proof half dollar.

Surfaces are identical to those on the four 1916 matte proof half dollars I have examined, and very near to those on pattern 1916 silver in the Smithsonian. Sharpness is superior - even in central details - to regular business strikes of the year. Borders are similar to those on the 1916 patterns and proofs.

I have never heard of another one of this date, though the 1917 McKinley gold dollar is recorded in proof state.

Respectfully Submitted  
Walter Freen  
For the Institute

1917 II 250 with PL 27 (65m  
copy)  
7/2/1972. Ornithologist chosen  
T.E. 250 has "head" - a hawk, wings -  
eagles & body - eagle - (619).

NB 46:68

# Clines

"J" THE BEARD

## RARE COINS

MEMBER  
LIFE MEMBER - G.E.N.A.  
LIFE MEMBER - A.N.A.  
LIFE MEMBER - PENN-OHIO  
LIFE MEMBER - B.R.N.A.  
C.S.N.S. - M.S.N.A.  
F.U.N.T.N.A.-S.C.N.A.  
G.H.C.H.

4421 SALEM AVENUE • DAYTON, OHIO 45416 • TEL: 513/274-9200 — 274-9081

April 24, 1980

Mr. Walter Breen  
Box 352  
Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Mr. Breen:

I received the 1917 Matte Proof quarter back from First Coin Investors with a note saying you could not authenticate the piece until you made a side by side comparison with the one you authenticated for Steve Ivy, which he sold to Harvey Elander and Harvey has since sold it to a party he will not disclose. I would like to know is this can be averted by dealing directly with you or sitting down with you in person for a "meeting of the minds" as well as some photos of Mr. Elander's coin. I do have a good photo in my book, of this coin, that is very revealing. The numismatic world and I do value your opinion in all phases and Standing Liberty Quarters are certainly no exception, Walter. I will be delighted to allow you the photo privileges in your book, as well as sharing the 1928-S (Small s) if you can help me out.

Looking forward to being able to get together on this matter at your earliest convenience. Perhaps you will be close to Dayton, Ohio for the A.N.A. in Cincinnati. If you can arrange it for the A.N.A. in August, that will be fine.

Yours truly,

*J.H. Cline*  
J. H. Cline  
LM ANA 547

25 Cent Proof. Two reported.

One sold in 2016 for \$47K.

# Clines

"J" THE BEARD

## RARE COINS & STAMPS

MEMBER  
LIFE MEMBER - G.E.N.A.  
LIFE MEMBER - A.N.A.  
LIFE MEMBER - PENN-OHIO  
LIFE MEMBER - B.R.N.A.  
C.S.N.S. - M.S.N.A.  
R.C.D.A. - T.N.A. - S.C.N.A.

4421 SALEM AVENUE • DAYTON, OHIO 45416 • TEL: 513/274-9200 — 274-9081

May 4, 1976

Mr. Walter H. Breen  
Box 352  
Berkeley, California 94701

Hello Walt:

I appreciate your taking the time and effort to write me the lengthy letter that you did; let me first of all apologize if I seemed like I want you to write the book, I really don't. I would love to make a contribution to the hobby by authoring the book.

I have Walter, in my possession a 1917 Type I Standing Liberty Quarter that in every respect appears to be a matte proof. I would like to know what your charges would be if you looked over the coin and furnished papers to me to the fact that it is a matte proof. I talked to Steve Ivy this weekend in Chicago and he was telling me that he also has a 1917 Type I matte proof. (I have seen many matte proofs in my life, not Standing Liberty Quarters of course, and this does seem to fill the bill of a matte proof in every respect. I would be happy to send the coin to you to let you examine it at your leisure and naturally whatever charges are involved I would be happy to pay you Walt on whatever normal substantiation fees are for things of this nature. I intend to build quite a little story around it in the book and perhaps in advertising too, if it is indeed a matte proof. Everyone who has looked at it at this point is of that opinion with the exception of Joel Rettew.

Let me hear your comments, whatever you have to say will be carefully regarded and appreciated considerably.

Thanking you for all the help you've been Walt, we remain,

Yours truly,

CLINE'S RARE COINS & STAMPS

*J.H. Cline*  
J. H. Cline  
L. M. ANA 547

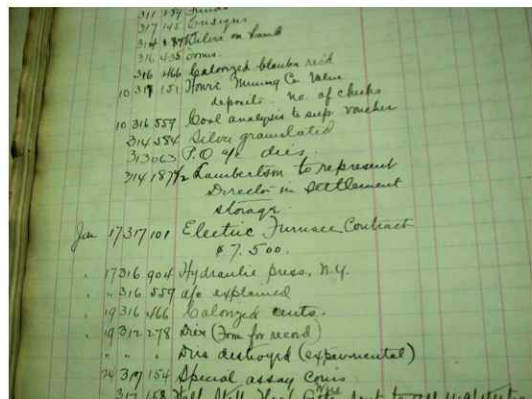
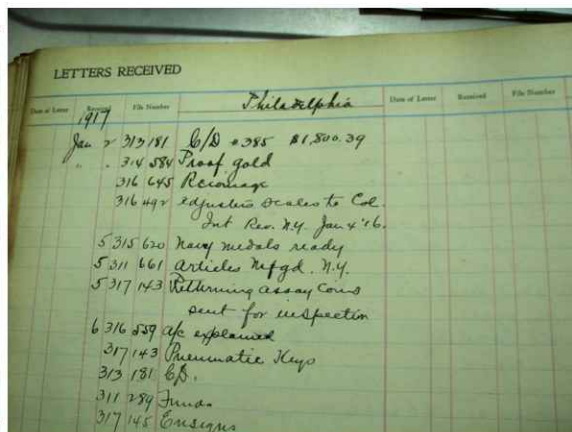
JHC/da



See A Guide Book of U. S. Coins "Red Book" 1978 to date.



Subject Index. Letters Received 1911-22. National Archives RG 104  
College Park MD..



January 2, 1917.

Mr. A. W. Joyce, Superintendent  
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of  
your letter of December 29, and of the ten and  
half dollars, which reached me promptly, in  
time for presentation as New Year gifts.

With every good wish for every day  
of the New Year and with thanks to the  
Director, and yourself that the beads are  
not on the border of the New Half Dollar, Pa.

Sincerely yours

A. Weinman

S302. Letter from AW  
to Joyce Jan. 2, 1917.



OFFICE OF  
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

10220  
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA  
JAN - 3 1917

January 4, 1917.

SUBJECT: Silver coinage - Philadelphia.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

Confirming telephone message of this date,  
please favor the coinage of half dollars until the  
demand is met. I presume the Director has personally  
informed you that he desires you to coin quarter dol-  
lars with the half dollars, and to hold these coins  
in the possession of the Superintendent of Coining  
until such time as a sufficient supply is accumulated  
and a date for their issuance is agreed upon.

Respectfully,

F. J. H. von Engelken,  
Director of the Mint.

By

F. J. H. von Engelken  
Acting Director

S303. Coinage order, Jan. 4,  
1917



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

January 4, 1917.

10220  
RECEIVED  
MINT U.S. PHILA  
JAN - 6 1917

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I am returning herewith the half dollar enclosed in your letter of the 3rd instant with the request that the half dollar sent to you for comparison be returned to the Bureau at your early convenience, in order that the assay of the same may be made in connection with the other coin of the same delivery, selected at random.

Respectfully,

F. J. H. von Engelken

Director of the Mint.

By

*L. H. Chapman*  
Acting Director

S304. Assay order ADM to  
Joyce Jan. 4, 1917

**10 Cent planchet size  
change.**

S306. Jan. 10, 1917 AT&T coin  
dimensions. Note the last line  
25c thickness .603 inch must  
be a typo.

SUBJECT: New Coinage of Quarter and Half-dollar.

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING

195 BROADWAY

NEW YORK January 10, 1917.

JOHN J. CARTY  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
BANKROFT GUERARDI  
ENGINEER OF PLANT  
KARL W. WATKINSON  
ENGINEER OF TRAFFIC

Mr. Adam M. Joyce, Superintendent,  
United States Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I note that the new half-dollar is in circulation. I called your office this morning and, in your absence, was informed that the old dimensions as regards diameter and thickness would be adhered to in the coinage of the new quarter and half-dollar. If this is true, we need give ourselves no further concern regarding the satisfactory operation of these coins in our coin collectors.

I find that we are using quite a number of coin boxes which take the half-dollar and I would appreciate it very much if you would kindly give me the dimensions which you consider standard for this coin.

Regarding the quarter, it is my understanding that you will hold closely to the following dimensions which, I understand, is your standard, that is, diameter - .959 inch; thickness - .603 inch.

Yours truly,

*L. H. Chapman*



S307. Jan. 30, 1917.

TELETYPE FLOORING  
HERMON A. MAC NEIL  
NORTHERN BELL CO.  
COLLEGE POINT  
NEW YORK

Feb. 2, 1917.

Mr. A. M. Joyce, Director, Mint,  
Philadelphia,  
Pa.

Dear Mr. Joyce:-

I met the Director of the Mint here in New York Tuesday and showed several new arrangements which I had made for the reverse of the quarter and out of them they selected one for trial.

This model I have now nearly off in bronze and expect Monday to forward it to you at the Mint. From the background of this reverse I have eradicated the rise that Mr. Morgan spoke of as being rather objectionable in the previous design. I have also the wing of the bird that seemed to show through sponging on the other side of the coin in your present issue. You will notice the only visible change on this reverse is the taking of three stars from the top and placing them underneath the bird, the lettering to be in the same place as the original design. The whole look of the design I am sure will be greatly improved by this slight change and the restoring of the lettering as first designed.

I am very much interested to know how the obverse of the coin is coming along. Mr. Von Engleken has asked me to write you regarding it so there may be no misunderstanding although when I last saw you I believe we had a very clear understanding about what was to be tried in substituting the figure on the second model for the present figure otherwise leaving the design of the coin practically as you now have it. In doing this I shall be very much interested to see if your engraver can get the shape of the letters as they now are on the coin in the words Liberty and In God We Trust. I know the scale is pretty small to work to but I hope he will be able to cut in the die this surrounding design to the figure. The letters in the word Liberty as I said when I was there would be better if a trifle smaller and of course the letters In God We Trust on the ribbon come off.

If you will kindly let me know at any point in the work when it seems desirable that I should see it and in any case let me know when it is ready to make a try or strike up in lead I shall be delighted to run down there.

In the meantime please believe me,

Very sincerely,

*H. A. Mac Neil*

JOLPH ALEXANDER WEINMAN  
21 WEST 21ST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

January 30, 1917.

Mr. A. M. Joyce, Superintendent  
United States Mint, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 24. with enclosed clipping concerning reverse of the new dime. Of course, I am delighted that even the secondary sharps are pleased with the coin. You know they are terrible sticklers for propriety in art.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly  
*J. A. Weinman*

S308. Redesign obv. & rev., Feb 2, 1917.

Feb. 18, 1917.

Mr. A. M. Joyce, Supt., U. S. Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Joyce:-

Under separate cover I am forwarding you another model of the obverse of the 25 cent piece with certain corrections made on it.

I will be pleased if you will see that the reduction to the die is made as expeditiously as possible. Will you also kindly let me know as soon as this and the previous model of the reverse have been tried that I may see the result.

I have found on the cast one or two slight bubbles which I have tried to eradicate, if however, your engraver with his more delicate tools finds any little imperfections I should be glad to have them removed.

I have also neglected to put the initial M on this model but I am sure Mr. Morgan will be glad to do so for me.

In the meantime please believe me,

Very sincerely,

*Hermon A. MacNeil*

S317. Feb. 16, 1917. 25c new obv.

SUBJECT: Thickness of Dime.

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING

195 BROADWAY

NEW YORK February 26, 1917.

JOHN J. CARTY  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
BARNABY GHERARDI  
ENGINEER OF PLANT  
KARL W. WATSON  
ENGINEER OF TRAFFIC

Mr. Adam M. Joyce, Superintendent,  
United States Mint,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Clark has no doubt shown you the six dimes which I brought to Philadelphia on January 25 which were found stuck in some of our coin boxes. This is the first indication of trouble which we have had since the new dime was issued. It seems that all of these dimes were from the 1916 coinage and that the present dimes are running better in respect to the fin as Mr. Clark demonstrated by testing a lot from your day's output. Mr. Clark advised that he is watching the rim dimension of the dime very closely but I am wondering if the same action is being taken at the Denver and San Francisco Mints. I am calling this matter to your attention to confirm my conversation with Mr. Clark and to raise the question if anything further can be done it will lessen the chance of a fin being formed due to a slight variation in the dies or the milling. It has been suggested that if the edge of the dime could be rounded slightly, there would be much less chance of the formation of the fin.

Any considerable amount of sticking of the new dime in our coin boxes will result in embarrassment to us, as in practical-

Mr. Adam M. Joyce,

-2-

ly every case where sticking occurs the patron loses his money and the 10-cent slot is also thrown out of commission until the trouble can be reported and the station visited by a repairman.

We have approximately 75,000 coin boxes now in service in which sticking may possibly occur. As soon as manufacturing conditions will permit, all boxes of new manufacture will have a deeper slot for the dime, which will give broader margins than those now existing. This does not, of course, take care in any way of the difficulties which may be experienced with the boxes now in the field.

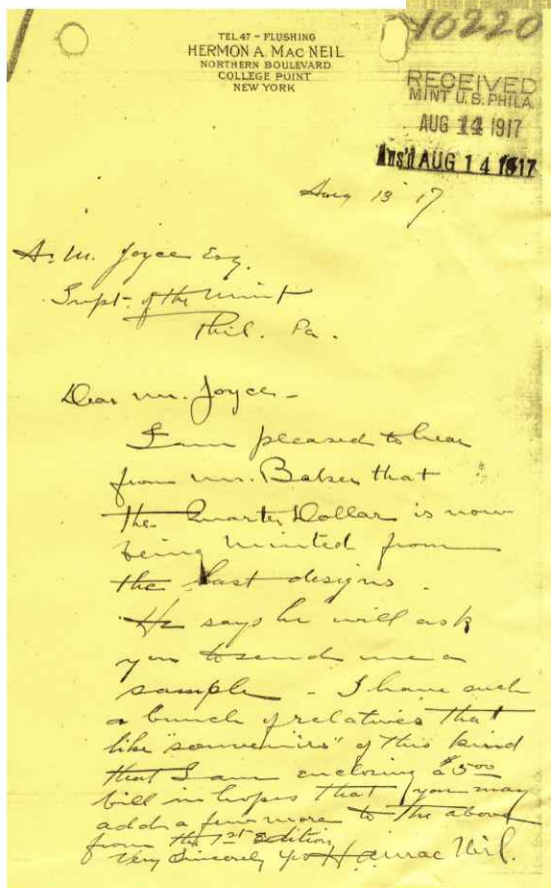
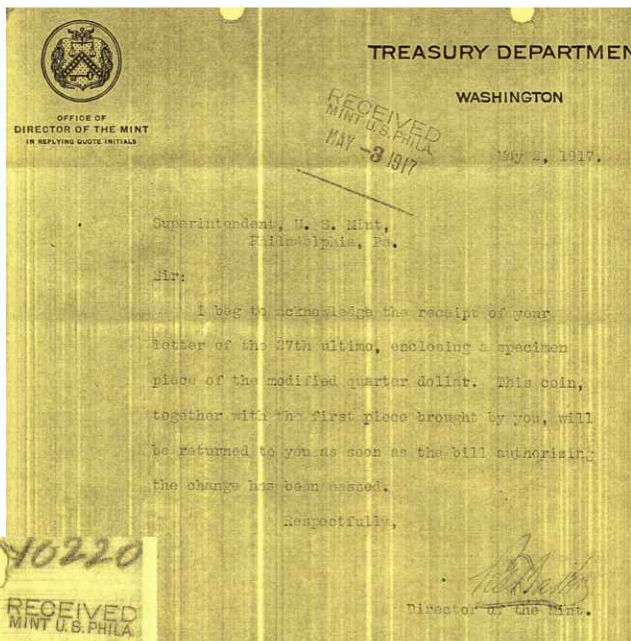
Yours truly,

*Geo. H. Thompson*

S301. Letter Feb. 26, 1917.

# Request 'Specimen coins'.

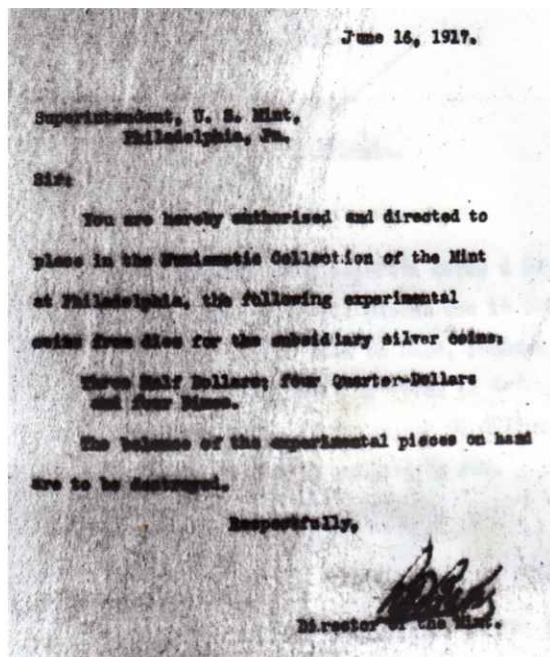
S320. Letter two  
"Specimen" coins:  
May 2, 1917.



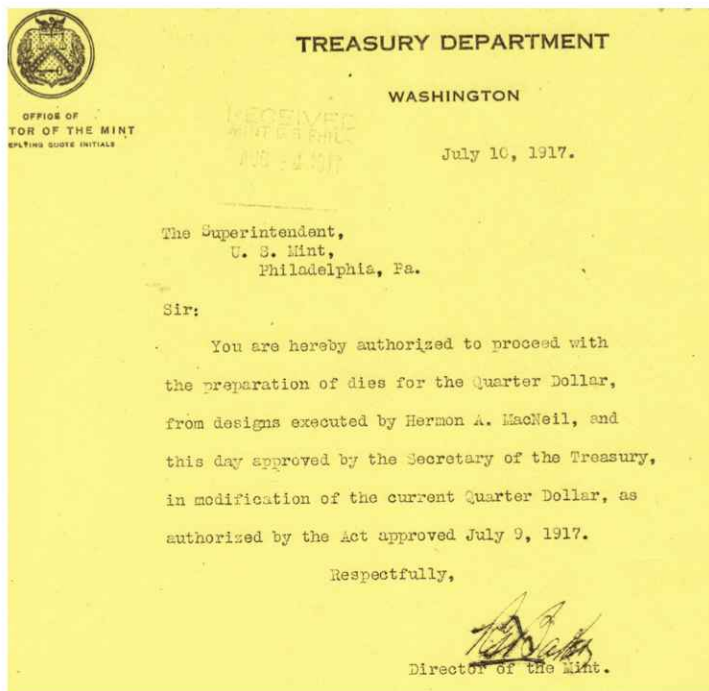
Scan proof. Letter Aug. 13 '17  
from HM to Joyce. HM to  
receive 1 "1st edition" ordering  
more with \$5.00 bill.



S412. Letter June 16, 1917.



S401. Letter July 10, 1917.



## **A Guide Book of United States Coins**

See also A Guide Book of United States Coins R. S. Yoeman, Ken Bressett editions of 1978 to date 2014. See 1 Cent, 5 Cent, 25 Cent. One Cent known Specimen, Matte Proof's 1913-17 Five Cent made for collectors, 1917 Type 1 Twenty Five Cent Specimen's known to exist.

### **Further research.**

If the readers have any comments, questions or ideas please feel free to contact [seymourwampum@gmail.com](mailto:seymourwampum@gmail.com) . This study has been serving it's purpose: collective learning & Heisenberg Principal. Due to many questions and comments over the last few years I have revised it to answer and generate more questions. Thank you, Seymour Wampum.







Fun in Phila. Mint Archives. Record Group 104. Satisfying way to spend a fall day. This is where I go to relax.

Treasury Dept.      Telegraphic  
Code book.

31721-16-2

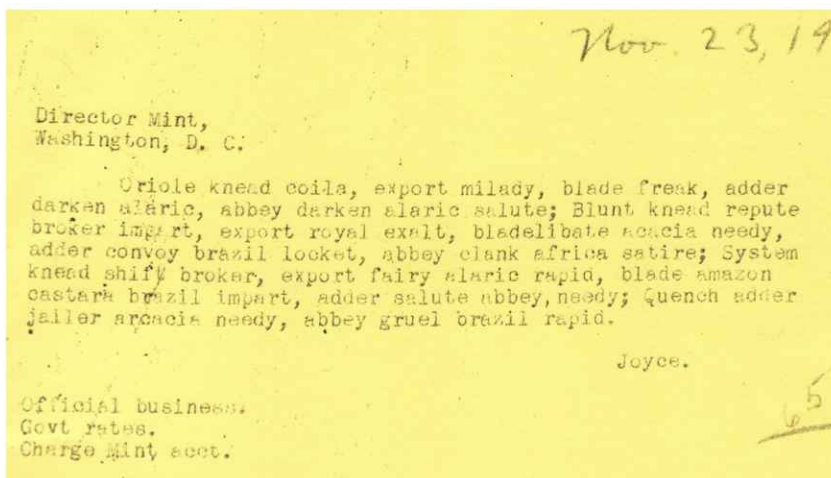
The Secretary of the Treasury, Director of the Mint, Assay Offices, Branch Mints & Customs Houses used ways to communicate in secret. The most common way in the early 20th century was via telegraph, written records were mandatory. A simple example is as follows: The TS asks DM to place orders to D-Mint Super. to strike 10,000 \$20.00 gold and ship this week to Federal Reserve Bank Kansas City. The telegraph receiver (RR station) and delivery person to the Branch Mint must not know the

contents of the message. The above coded telegrams were employed several times daily. There are tens of thousands in Mint records today. D-Mint received up to 30, usually 8-10 daily. After memorizing the language, this was simple employment of communication, accounting and replying. I must add there are very funny words: adrift: there is an error; agony: returns to be made by you; aim: you can ship; Allah: Senate of the United States; ambush: Panama RR Co.; amuse: you have been; argue: all charges; awful: unavailable funds; barter: bill of exchange; birds: Eagles; captor: the action of Congress; caress: you should (or may) continue; casino: when the deposit is made please collect; chief: by direction of the Secretary of the Treasury; comma: telegraphic transfers; cynic: natural abrasion; decoy: has (or have) been consulted; dudes: National-Bank

CODE WORD.	TRUE READING.
Court.....	To cover the redemption.
Coward.....	Go ahead as usual.
Cradle.....	Is it.
Crimp.....	Profite on coinage minor coin.
Crane.....	As heretofore.
Cravat.....	Can not give whereabouts of.
Craven.....	Ascertain the facts.
Crayon.....	Sealing of packages.
Creed.....	To be credited to.
Creole.....	Assayer in charge United States Assay Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Cress.....	Counter enter, or counter entry.
Crimp.....	Needs a large supply of.
Crisis.....	Third Assistant Postmaster General.
Crock.....	Can I use.
Crocus.....	Stop payment on.
Cross.....	On account of transfer order.
Croton.....	Copper coins.
Crowd.....	Suggestion of.
Cruise.....	The balance of.
Crumb.....	Duplicate certificate of deposit.
Crypt.....	Is it not in error?
Cubit.....	Ship has sailed.
Cup.....	Before receipt.
Cupid.....	Be ready to comply with.
Cur.....	Amount not stated correctly.
Curate.....	Special United States Indian Agent.



notes; eat: await further instructions; elf: and smaller; family: Federal Reserve notes; flush: look out for. Many more! Below are random coded examples, thousands exist.



Nov. 22, 1917.

Director Mint,  
Washington, D.C.

Oricle, knead coila, export carden, blade freak,  
adder debris, abbey debris. Blunt knead amazon shovel,  
exportthane, blade bulwer, adder gruel, abbey feast.  
System knead amazon embryo, export gibbet, blade amazon  
desire. Quench adder embryo, abbey efface.

Joyce,.

Official business.  
Govt rates.  
Charge Mint Acct.

November 26, 1917.

Director Mint,  
Washington, D. C.

Oricle knead freak, export coila, blade freak, adder darken  
adagio, abbey darken brazil salute; Blunt knead calypso adagio,  
export joyous adagio, blade amazon filter locket, adder darken  
broker salute, abbey carden adagio launch; System knead darken  
adorn, export garble, blade heater alario jersey, adder jugle,  
abbey oddity; Quench export adjust, adder euterpe barrow needy,  
abbey facile blanch pastil.

Joyce.

Official business.  
Govt rates.  
Charge Mint Acct.

V.U.

63

# Matte Proofing process.

The following is condensed from several eyewitness accounts. Intricate details I do not include to prevent counterfeiting. The three metals we are concerned with each have a different process. Bronze has the more rapid destructive action due to chemical agents. All genuine U. S. Mint Proof coins are made in a special process. The Proof Sets of coins are made under government supervision to be preserved for record, or sold to collectors. The face of the dies used in stamping these sets have been given an extra fine finish, and glisten as though they had been nickel-plated. The blanks for the coins are annealed and stamped by the hydraulic press. The operator then gives them a acid bath, and polishes them singly with a handful of wet sand. If they are bronze pieces, they may be given the deep bronze finish (bronzing powder and baked) or clouded over in the sand blast. The later device is a small wooden box with glass sides. A pipe on the inside blows down a fine shower of sand. The operator, wearing a big pair of mitts to protect his hands, holds the coin under this stream of sand until the operation is finished, when it has a delicate frosted finish.

Proof characteristics: Thick broad rims. If the inner edge of the rim is rounded, reject it as a proof, it must be sharp. These coins were struck two or more times to give the rim a thickness that appears to be well above the portrait. Central details are sharp. The difference in the finish is the problem of each year having a different appearance because of processing differences.

There are two different types of finish in the early proofs. Satin sometimes referred to as 'Roman Gold'. It gives a soft and fuzzy look to the entire surface obv. and rev.. The surface is also evenly textured. There should not be inconsistencies between the portrait and the field. There is



no luster! The second and far more common is the 'Matte'. The finish has a coarse or granular appearance.

Finish is not the best way to tell if you are looking at a proof. There must be evidence of double striking. Much of the time in the 1930's collectors and dealers dipped the Matte Proofs in order to 'improve' their appearance. These are called 'cyanide jobs', that is what was used.

Proofing process copper & bronze: Japanese workmen first accentuated autumn foliage on cast bronze plaque in the 15th century with chemical treatment. Three distinctly different 'rusts' were preferred. The rust most popular is 'Verdigris'. This rust is a turquoise color. Copper, water, time and heat/cold make turquoise stone. The word 'patina' Latin: pan, dish; Italian: thin slice, is also used. When elements are eventually going to effect the surface of naked metal, a cover of protection is wise.

Oxide of Iron: Apply to the surface of the coin common crocus powder, jeweler's rouge, previously made into a smooth paste. After drying expose the coin to a clear fire a short time. After it has cooled brush it with a plate brush. Color (tint) varies greatly--light brown to deep chocolate--due to the particular variety of Oxide of Iron used. Cast metal also is different: Italian Florinzia 1300's-1500's 'Cera Berduta'.

Acid bath: The exact ingredients of Osaka 'Rokusho' are known but not given, but this is a good example. The coppers and salt are the most important. Plum juice, acetate of copper, sulfate of copper, nitre, salt, sulphur. Heat to boil. To manufacture colors: golden yellow: malate, deep brown: urate, bright red: chloride of sodium.

After preparing the bath, sand blast the coin to accept the chemicals. Submerge for a short time, extract, polish with a pair of leather gloves, heat in furnace, let cool. Done.

Silver: It is well known that polished surfaces quickly tarnish & even blacken. Sand blast the surface to frost it, treat to darken with an aqueous

solution of sulfide, followed by rubbing with a very fine pumice to remove the dark layer of sulfide from the higher areas which accentuates the recesses. It is preferable to cover the metal with a layer of platinum. This is effected by immersing it in alcoholic solution of chloride of platinum until blackened then rub with a fine brush and very fine pumice to a delicate grey finish. See the 1/2 Dollar one sided proof photo above. It can later be rubbed with fine leather.

Nickel: Later date.

Gold: Another study to follow.

Die life: After the proof coin is struck on the Medal Press, the first strike causes the coin to become hardened because of the high heat. At this time the coin should be annealed to soften it, but is is not. The second and sometimes third strike begin to damage the dies. The result, the small number produced from each die pair. The early years 1909-17, as few as 200 were made from a pair of dies.

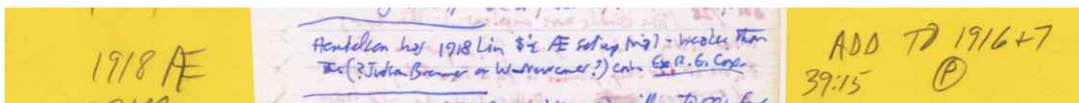
The sources for the Proofing process and the Medal Room are found in the U.S. Mint, British Mint, French Mint whom adapted the processes from the artistic practices of the 'Celestials' in Asia and Japan. See also the middle age Italian records.

## General instructions & Regulations

I have wanted to include to this site: General Instructions and Regulations in relation to the Transaction of Business at the Mints and Assay Offices of the United States together with the Coinage Laws 1908 but there are 186 pages. Far to many to include here, some are not necessary to the 1916-7 coins above. You are encouraged to add a copy for your library.

Until the middle of the 20th Century the word *essai* was used to describe coins struck with official dies but not a regular issue to illustrate or try-out a new piece for a new Motto, device or coinage plan. *Essai*: Experimental piece, Pattern, Die Trial & Strikes, Patterns. Struck in proper metal = Experimental Piece.

## 1918



NB 39:15 ...\$1/2 AE set up trial....



# Reducing lathe

Janvier built in France, sold to U.S. Mint, this is the receipt.

**ATELIERS**  
et Construction de Machines.

Machines à vapeur et hydrauliques. Appareils pour monnaies, tels que adalanciers, Machines à cordonner, à rectifier, etc. Scieries à bois et à pierres à une ou .A. plusieurs lames, Presses hydrauliques et autres. Machines à cylindrer .A. Tours à portraits, à réduire du même au même ou simple, Ateliers à tricoter. Circulaires de tous diamètres et de tous jages. Tous objets de mécanique en fer, fonte et cuivre de tous genres.

Rue de Montmorency, N° 40,  
Paris.

**Contamin,**  
Ingénieur - Mécanicien.

Paris le 12 Decembre 1836

Livré à monsieur Fisher, un tour  
à portrait, pour le prix convenu de  
plus pour l'emballage

3000 francs  
Total 3080

Pour acquit

RMP  
100

Contamin

**NOTA.**  
Les articles marqués .A. étant  
inventés ou perfectionnés par moi, ne  
se construisent pas ailleurs.  
On se charge de filer toutes espèces  
de vis.  
On fonde les Roues d'Engrenage de  
toutes formes, depuis un pouce jusqu'à  
trois pieds de diamètre. Les Ateliers étant  
montés en outils précieux, on se charge  
de la construction de Machines délicates,  
même de l'horlogerie.

